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Faculty frustrated by inadequate job search support for their partners

By SOPHIA
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Contributing Writer

Over three-quarters of Middlebury faculty come to the college with a partner. But inadequate college policies for employing these partners and integrating them into the Middlebury community have led some faculty to consider leaving, according to a survey conducted by the Faculty Council Working Group on Partner Inclusion in March.

In response to the group's report summarizing the survey results, President Laurie Patton announced at the Nov. 8 faculty meeting the creation of a new half-time five-year position that will be specially dedicated to improving partner inclusion policy and practice.

Partner inclusion, while mainly focusing on employment, also encompasses concerns about helping partners feel part of the Middlebury community.

"Partners are not, contrary to popular belief, looking for a hand-out in the form of a tailored job," wrote Sarah Laursen, assistant professor of history of art and architecture, in a 2018 internal re-

port to the Faculty Council. "They are simply people who moved here with their partners in hopes of a better life but are continually faced with disappointment and rejection in the job search."

Of the faculty who responded to the March survey, 90% said that an institutional partner hiring policy was important to them, and 76% came to Middlebury with a partner. Of these, there was a roughly evenly split between academic and non-academic partners.

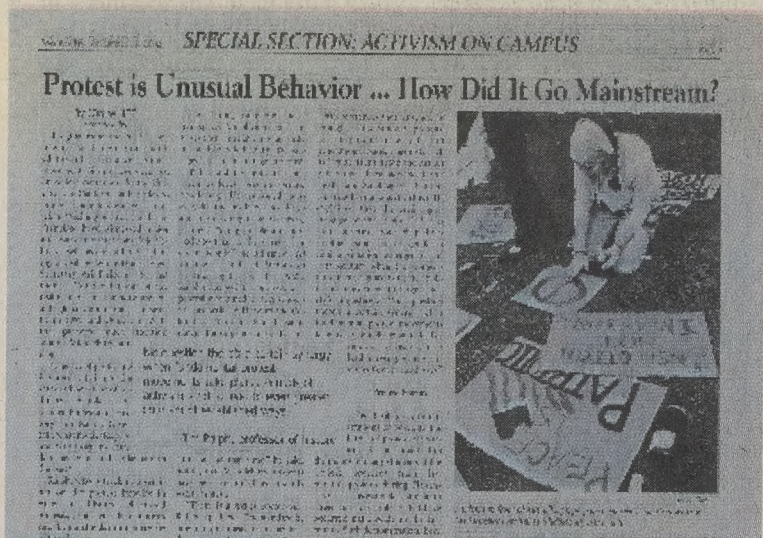
The college's current partner employment policy states, "Middlebury will strive to attract and retain the best faculty and staff. While doing so, Middlebury will also strive to increase the number of women and persons of color on its administration, faculty and staff."

However, due to the lack of a robust partner inclusion policy, 18% of faculty reported that they are actively looking for other employment, according to the report. When accounting for faculty members passively searching for employment or those who have

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What does it mean to be an activist at Middlebury?

Despite structural and organizational obstacles, small networks of student activists bring to Midd a robust culture of social engagement.



COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

An article from a November 2002 article in The Campus.

By HANNAH BENSEN
News Editor

"Middlebury College has never been considered a hotbed of political activity," reads an article published in The Middlebury Campus from November 2002. "Its own students describe the atmosphere as 'sleepy,' 'detached,' and 'bubbled-in.' Those who dare to shatter the quiet are a minority that is sometimes scorned for disrupting this remote paradise. 'Protest' is something that is debated; 'activism' is something that occurs elsewhere."

The author noted later in the article that this trend was already changing. Now, 17 years later, most students would likely disagree with the notion that Middlebury students are apolitical.

In the past few years alone, student activists, leaders of campus extracurriculars, and campaign organizers have built websites to direct students to resources surrounding sexual health (go/sexyresources); they have also successfully petitioned the college to become a "sanctuary campus"

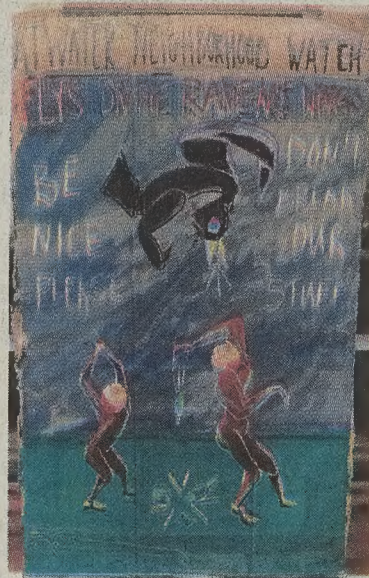
campus after President Donald Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Notably, after nearly a decade of work, the student-led effort by Divest Middlebury culminated with Energy2028, a commitment from the college to divest its endowment from fossil fuels companies over the coming years.

These success stories are the glossy stuff of press releases. But the long-winded road to change — enacted by an ever-changing student body amid a minefield of obstacles — is anything but straightforward.

Isolation and insulation: Student activism in the "Middlebury bubble"

The college's location in rural Vermont can make some students feel disconnected from national and international political issues. Many students reference "the Middlebury bubble" to describe the seemingly impermeable membrane that blocks students from

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JAMES FINN/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



RILEY BOARD/ THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

LEFT: Atwater resident Tim DiLorenzo '21 made this sign in response to damages in Atwater. Days later, the sign itself had been vandalized. RIGHT: Signs from outside the RAJ and Carr Hall were knocked down by students. The repairs, which will require welding the metal bases of the signs, will cost hundreds of dollars, and put strain on an already understaffed facilities staff.

As property damage continues across campus, facilities staff reiterate burden of vandalism on workers

By RILEY BOARD
News Editor

More than four weeks have passed since Atwater Commons Residence Director Esther Thomas called Atwater suites residents into a meeting about consistent damage in their buildings, including urination in elevators and sign theft. And, while all of the signs stolen in October have since been returned and inappropriate urination across campus seems to have come to a halt, destruction of and

disrespect for property at Middlebury is nowhere near over.

Masted signs — the large blue-metal placards on posts outside many buildings on campus — were knocked down by students in the past several weeks, most notably outside of the Robert A. Jones '59 House and Carr Hall, according to facilities staff. Repairs for these signs will collectively cost between \$400 and \$600, as the bases of the posts must be re-welded. Students also tore down recycling and custodial signs in Atwater Hall B.

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SGA committee develops consent training workshops

By NORA PEACHIN
News Editor

Sexual Respect and Relationship Committee develops interactive consent training workshops

Middlebury is the only school in the NESCAC that does not include a non-online mandatory consent training program in its freshman orientation. Elissa Asch '22.5, head of the SGA Sexual Respect and Relationship Committee (SRR), is changing that.

Asch began spearheading the effort to institute such a program last summer. Now, she is looking to implement the training in the upcoming February orientation.

Over the summer, she contacted and spoke with representatives from the 10 other NESCAC schools, including wellness directors, violence prevention specialists, and students in charge of organizations equivalent to both SRR and Sex Positive Education for College Students (SPECS) at Middlebury. She interviewed students and/or staff at each school about the sexual health and consent trainings at their schools, focusing specifically on what mandatory orientation trainings they had.

Schools' programming varied from 20-minute workshops with Title IX coordinators, to speakers, to theatrical performances, to fairs during orientation with tables for all sex-related organizations on campus. The individuals Asch spoke with at each school had specific reasons why they thought programs did or didn't work for their student body, and spoke about goals they had to continuously improving their trainings.

"It was really useful to create a network, because now I can reach out to them if I'm looking for ideas or support from people working on these issues," Asch said.

Asch then wrote a proposal with all the information she collected from other schools, which she presented to Civil Rights and Title IX Coordinator Marti McCaleb, and Violence Prevention and Advocacy Specialist Emily Wagner, at the start of this academic year.

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After study abroad office offers options, most students studying in Chile choose to stay



COURTESY OF SIDRA PIERSON

A protest in Vina Del Mar, Chile on November 12. Protests and violent government responses that began three weeks ago have continued in Chile in recent days.

By JAMES FINN
Managing Editor

Most students studying abroad in Chile chose to stay in the country despite civil unrest, after the college's study abroad office gave them the option to leave.

After protests started three weeks ago, the study abroad office first considered an evacuation of all students enrolled in Middlebury programs in Chile. On Oct. 24, it elected instead to give them several options. They could remain in Chile, relocate to Buenos Aires, Argentina or return to the United States, where they could earn partial academic credit through remote work

or full credit by taking a summer language course. Students were asked to decide on a course of action by Monday, Nov. 4.

Of the 23 students enrolled in Middlebury programs in six Chilean cities, three chose to return to the United States, one chose to relocate to Buenos Aires and the remaining 19 chose to stay in Chile, according to Assistant Director of International Programs Alessandra Capossela.

Students were first asked to decide on one of the four options by Nov. 1. However, many became frustrated

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ARTS & ACADEMICS



Installation marks 30th anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall
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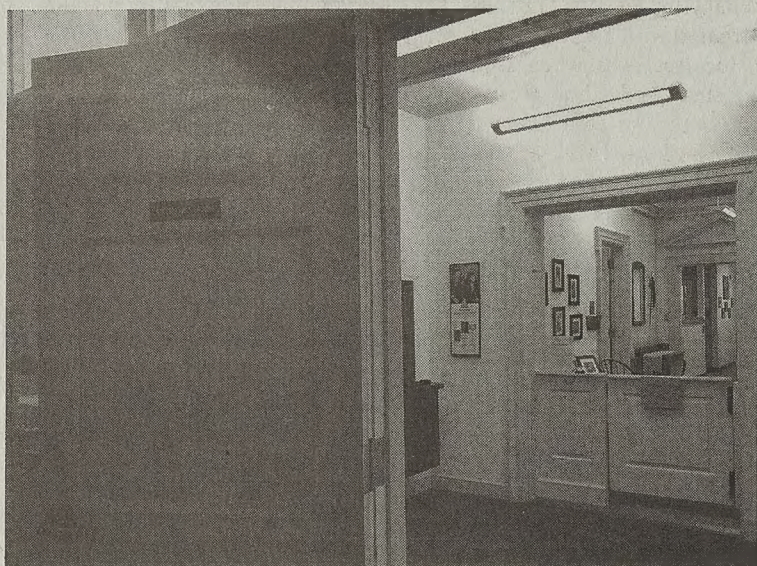


Football secures NESCAC title with 9-0 record
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ZEITGEIST



COMMITTEE PROPOSES SWITCH TO CREDIT HOURS



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Several details of a credit hour system need to be worked out, such as exactly how many credit hours students would need to graduate or complete a major.

By BECCA AMEN
Staff Writer

The Educational Affairs Committee is proposing that the college switch to a credit hour system, allowing for students to receive more than one credit for more time-consuming classes. Questions still remain, however, as to how the college would transition to the new system. The earliest that faculty would vote on the motion is at their December meeting, and the earliest potential year of implementation is 2021.

Discussions about this potential switch stemmed from concerns that the college's current system is unfair to students who take a high number of time-intensive classes, including students who might have to balance these classes with work-study jobs. Some classes at Middlebury meet for as little as two-and-a-half hours per week, while courses with labs or discussions require many more hours in a student's schedule. Yet courses are uniformly valued at one credit each.

This is because Middlebury uses the credit unit system to measure progress toward an undergraduate degree, within which all classes are valued at one credit on a student's transcript. The alternative would be the credit hour system, in which universities designate credits based on the number of weekly hours a student spends in any given class. Under this system, a student with more hours of class a week would accumulate more credits for their time.

While some students expressed uncertainty about the exact benefits and drawbacks of different credit allocation systems, many feel the current policy is imbalanced.

"Last year, I took around 20 hours of class per week, and this semester, I'm only taking around 12," Sabrina Templeton '22 said. "It is a little bit unfair that I'm getting the same amount of credit for such different amounts of class time."

Students who opt to take classes with time-consuming labs, screenings, and discussion sections may have difficulty studying abroad, and may not be able to take certain classes outside of their majors.

"I feel like it makes it harder for science students to study abroad and reduces some opportunity to try other subjects," Ming Harris-Weidner '22, an Environmental Chemistry major, said. "However, I don't really have much of an opinion on it because I'll be happy as long as I graduate."

The college does provide a way to transfer credit units to credit hours for students who need to provide that information to a potential employer, or if they transfer to another school. The college's website states that one Middlebury credit can be considered equivalent to 3.3 credit hours, while a class involving separate labs can be valued at 4.0 credit hours.

"The 3.3 credits comes from comparing the minimum credits required for a Middlebury degree, which is 36, and the minimum credits required for a bachelor's degree in a semester hour credit system, which is 120," Registrar Jennifer Thompson said. "It is up to each institution to decide how they will normalize our credit into their system."

While the credit unit system is not particularly common, many other NESCAC institutions also use it. However, not every college uses the same conversion metric — at Bowdoin College, each class translates to 4.0 credit hours, and Williams College considers each course to be 3.75 credit hours.

If faculty do vote to change Middlebury's credit system, the college would not be the first NESCAC institution to adopt a credit hour system.

Tufts University implemented a credit-hour system in 2018, assigning semester-hour units to each course. The number of units varies, depending on instruction time, demand of lab requirements and rigor of outside work. On their website, Tufts cites straightforward transfer of credit to other institutions and transcript standardization as the primary reasons for the change. Additionally, the university states that students can better anticipate a course's difficulty, seeing as credit hours are assigned according to how many hours the course will take up in a week.

Partner inclusion policy contributes to faculty gender discrepancies

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searched in the past, hypothesized the report, this figure is likely much higher.

"We moved from far away, into an isolated place with no network — a common story here — and so job hunting was difficult without having any college support," wrote one faculty member in response to the survey. "[It] was a big letdown. The longer I'm here, the more I feel like my experience is not unique, and the college really doesn't care about this at all."

Issues of partner inclusion disproportionately affect female faculty, who, according to the 2008 Report of the Task Force on the Status of Women at Middlebury College, face uneven challenges in this area due to societal norms.

The report found that gender discrepancies among associate professors were due in large part to Middlebury's partner inclusion policy, since female faculty were more likely to leave before achieving tenure if they did not think their spouses would be employed by the college or in the area. Between the fall of 1997 and the spring of 2008, 60% of departing female faculty cited spousal employment as the main reason for their resignation, while the same was true of only 10% of departing male faculty, according to the report.

Under the current policy, the dean of faculty informs new hires that they can contact Human Resources for assistance in partner employment. However, 92% of the respondents to the survey said that they did not receive any support, though many tried.

Another respondent to the survey expressed dissatisfaction with the way their partner was treated when he applied for a job at the college after the respondent was hired.

"When my partner did apply for a position that he was well-qualified for, he was treated poorly by the HR process — long delays between app submission and first interview, and then before the second interview, with little communication in between, and long lag before final rejection," the faculty member wrote. "We are not alone. A colleague in my area had a similar experience with her partner. Neither partner has any interest in reapplying to Midd."

The lack of partner inclusion affects faculty morale, creates problems in drawing talented prospective candidates and takes a psychological toll on both faculty and their partners, according to Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Merrill "Mez" Baker-Medard. Baker-Medard is

a member of the Faculty Council Working Group on Partner Inclusion.

"Every day, we faculty come home from our dream jobs to our demoralized partners, and we feel miserable that our success comes at the cost of their self-worth," wrote Laursen in the 2018 internal report to the Faculty Council. "The constant job search and the stress of trying to survive on less income ... puts a strain on our relationships, and we come to resent the College too."

The lack of prospects for faculty partners causes heightened turnover of faculty and can also deter new professors from taking jobs at the college. This creates

has changed," responded one faculty member to the survey.

"The people we are hiring as professors today are not the same as 30 years ago when the model was originally set up," said Sargent. "The world is just different, so the policy should be different."

Following the group's report and its presentation to the faculty in September, Patton negotiated with a donor to secure funding for the new five-year position. The Faculty Council Working Group on Partner Inclusion hopes to work with administration and faculty to design the job description for this role and finalize the hire by the end of this academic year, according to Baker-Medard.

"The person who had this task before, it was one of many, many other things they did, so having a dedicated person is a big win," Baker-Medard said. "I think it gives us a little bit of momentum. Maybe that person can also help us think about the no or low cost things we can do as well as the things we want to invest in financially in the future based on our recommendations."

The creation of this new position addressed just one of eight recommendations from the working group's report. These recommendations included having Human Resources proactively reach out to new hires about partner inclusion, offering courtesy interviews and introductions to partners to help them find local employment outside of the college, creating a formal process for two-year visiting appointments for partners, and creating better channels into staff positions for non-academic partners.

According to the report, "Partner employment is not just an opportunity for partners, it is also an opportunity for the College. Faculty partners are often highly skilled and readily employable."

The working group also recommended that Middlebury put more effort into including partners in college activities and events, "revise existing partner employment guidelines into a clear and transparent partner inclusion policy" and continue allowing the Faculty Council Working Group on Partner Inclusion to address these issues.

"There's definitely interest and a willingness and openness around these other requests, but nothing's been concretized yet," Baker-Medard said. "I think the Dean of Faculty as well as other administrators, including President Patton, are aware of the issue and thinking about it in new ways due to this report."

"The constant job search and the stress of trying to survive on less income ... puts a strain on our relationships, and we come to resent the College too."

— Professor Sarah Laursen

extra work for hiring committee members and causes financial waste within the hiring process, according to Kristina Sargent, another member of the Faculty Council Working Group on Partner Inclusion and Assistant Professor of Economics.

"I find it ironic that the school is so obsessively cutting budgets while they spend who knows how much on recruiting to replace faculty who would have stayed if their partners could have found even marginally satisfactory employment nearby," responded one faculty member to the working group's survey.

According to Baker-Medard, faculty have raised concerns about the college's faculty partner inclusion policy for the last 25 years with little to no change resulting.

"While my experience was over a decade ago, it looks like little

Damage to residential spaces continues campus-wide

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this year, the total residential damage cost for the year came out to about \$2,500. This suggests a higher rate of damage this year in comparison with others, given that during 2018–19 school year there were \$4,200 in damages for the whole year. During the 2017–18 school year there were only \$2,700 in damages.

If destruction continues at this rate for the remainder of the school year, there could be an unprecedented \$16,000 in residential hall damages. And, according to reporting from 2015, damages tend to pick up in the spring.

Hall and Custodial Supervisor Dan Celik spoke about the bur-

den that deliberate damage places upon the custodial team, especially in a time of staff shortages.

"In the long run, [damages] are costing the college money. And with our staff reduction, I'd rather be fixing things that need to be fixed than fixing things that didn't need to be broken," Hall said.

Facilities has been suffering from staff shortages for years, but vacancies have peaked recently.

"I've been here for a long time and this is the first time that I remember having as many openings as we do," an anonymous custodial staff member told The Campus last month.

When conducting fire safety checks, residential life and facilities will often find signs that have

been stolen hanging on the walls of rooms and suites, like "trophies" according to Celik. The act of taking signs from the buildings in which people live for their own decor is particularly troubling to him.

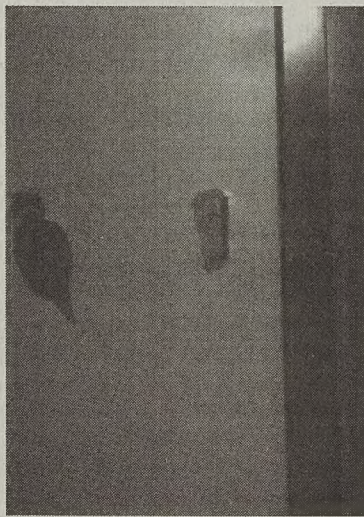
"You're taking from your own community. You're disfiguring your own building," Celik said. "We pride ourselves on having a world class facility: not every place looks like this. And when it gets defaced it's super frustrating. We do our best to make the bad places look good, keeping them clean."

However, Celik noted, it's not the so-called "bad places" — older buildings like Battell — where the damages primarily occur. It's newer, nicer facilities like the Atwater suites.

Whodunnit?

Conversations about damage by students have often hinged on laying blame: if someone gets away with destruction without being caught — which is often the case — who should have to be responsible for the cost of repairs?

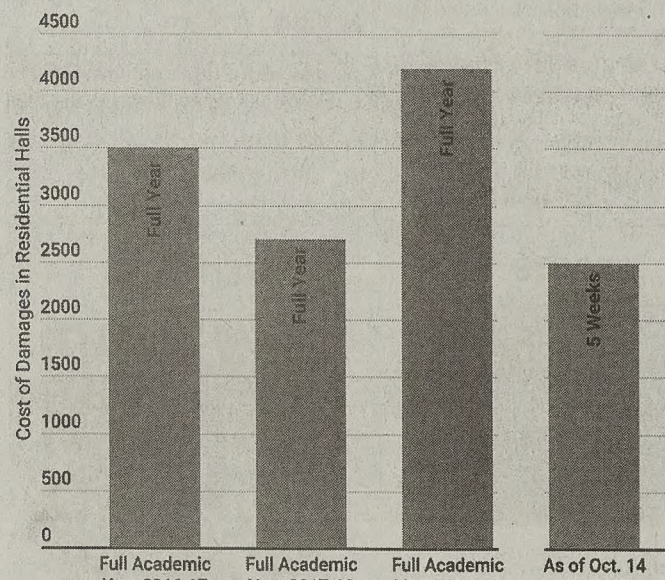
At the recent Atwater Community Meeting, students debated who should be charged for the \$2,300 in damages that were originally to be divided among Atwater residents. Many argued that destruction in common spaces should not be charged to all residents, most of whom were not present at the time of damage or hosting the parties that brought in guests.



Ripped custodial and recycling signs in Atwater B.



COURTESY OF FACILITIES



RILEY BOARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Thomas responded by imploring residents to set a tone in the building, and noting that they are broadly responsible for the space, even the communal spaces outside of their suites.

Celik and Hall echoed this sentiment. "We consider where you are now to be your home," Hall said, referencing the way that students would likely behave in their own houses. He believes people are responsible for the buildings they live in and the behaviors of people who visit those spaces.

To students who have caused damage, either deliberately or accidentally, and want to avoid high fees for their entire building, facilities staff have a solution: fess up.

When a student comes forward about causing damage, the labor rate per hour is reduced from \$59 to \$39. When a specific student is not found to be responsible for damage, an entire hall or building will be charged the higher rate, but when responsible parties admit to destruction, they are individually charged at the lower rate.

While materials costs remain the same, facilities hopes to incentivize student honesty by reducing the labor fee in situations where students confess. "I think if someone is honest enough to come forward and return the sign, we're going to just fix the sign. We see that as an adult reaction. We're not out to screw over the students, we just need to fix things," Hall said.

Student activism: “it’s the same group of people over and over”



COURTESY PHOTO

After the Charles Murray protests, 74 students received punishments ranging from probation to official college discipline.

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the “real world” and to some, seems to propagate homogenous ideologies.

Annie Blalock ’20.5, current president of Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM), said that Middlebury’s relative isolation may contribute to the feeling that students are confined in how they can respond to larger issues. Blalock joined FAM to combat this feeling of voicelessness.

“As time passed during my first semester, I felt the weight of the Middlebury bubble every day [in] that new inhumane policies were introduced or protective legislation taken away,” Blalock wrote in an email to The Campus.

locations of incidents of sexual assault on campus with red dots on a map. Last spring, Shomo and Vedock helped organize the peaceful protest that was scheduled to occur during the Ryszard Legutko lecture that was set for Wed., April 17. The lecture and the protest were unexpectedly cancelled by administration due to “safety risks,” which were left ambiguous when first announced. “A lot of people who are leading activist charges, it’s the same group of people over and over,” Shomo said. “What I find very frustrating is that I think the Middlebury population constructs itself as aware and involved and liberal. But in my experience, when we have asked people to step up and be part of things, they’re not there.”

on that support,” Holland said. Student activists also must navigate the rules set by administration for student organizing, a process which Blalock said is “unnecessarily burdensome.” The consequences for violating college policy, however, can be serious. Prior to the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Middlebury in 2012, five students who dubbed themselves the “Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee” circulated a mock press release to students, faculty and media outlets announcing that the college would divest from industries of violence. The students were charged and ultimately found guilty by the Community Judicial Board during an open hearing and were given a reprimand, but

Abenaki burial site, and should be treated with respect. More recently, when students protested and shut down the 2017 lecture of controversial sociologist Charles Murray, the college punished 74 students with sanctions ranging from probation to official college discipline. Students were accused of violating the section in the Student Handbook that prohibits “disruptive behavior at community events or on campus.” “If we have to be afraid of being suspended because of engaging in protest, that’s a very precarious situation to be in,” Shomo said. While some students do not engage with student activism, many feel compelled to act, no matter the risks. “People don’t engage with activist activities for a variety of reasons — maybe you’re working a job, maybe your course load is so difficult — but for some people it takes an enormous amount of privilege to not be concerned about things or to just not think about things,” Vedock said. “When you’re engaged with these initiatives, you have to ask yourself: Who are you fighting for?”

Changing the world ... in just four years

Though students encounter unique challenges when trying to create change, some have identified strategies that have proved repeatedly effective in moving their campaigns forward. Megan Salmon ’21 serves as president of Amnesty International and is the student activism coordinator for Amnesty USA, meaning she oversees all efforts by Amnesty chapters at universities in the state of Vermont. She said incentivizing students can be effective in persuading people outside of the core group of activists to show up to events.

“Whether it’s a musical performance, or it’s interactive, or there’s food, or prizes — it gets them off the couch, basically,” Salmon said.

Holland said coalition building can be an effective way to show that an issue is important beyond one group. Early this month, Olivia Pintair ’22.5 and Hannah Ennis ’22.5 organized the Milk with Dignity campaign at the Hannaford supermarket in Middlebury. The campaign was one of about 20 campaigns across the Northeast that was organized by Migrant Justice, a nonprofit that advocates for economic justice and human rights of farm workers.

“Our organizing included... networking with other groups on and off-campus in order to get as many people as possible to attend the action itself,” Pintair wrote in an email to The Campus. According to Pintair, Middlebury Refugee Outreach Club (MidROC), Juntos, Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG), a church group in Middlebury, and Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) all “contributed in different ways to the action.” Some members of these groups made signs to display at the event, while others attended the rally. Pintair said activists from Migrant Justice were also present, leading chants in both Spanish and English. They also

hand-delivered a letter to the manager of Hannaford at the protest, urging the supermarket to “ensure human rights for the farmworkers behind the company’s milk.” “I sometimes find student activism challenging on campus with how many different clubs and groups there are at Middlebury, each with their own specialty,” Ennis wrote in an email. “I was really inspired by the action and rally on Nov. 2 at Hannaford because of the way many different student organizations came together for this one cause. I hope to see more events in the future with groups working together.” Change is slow, Ennis said, and it’s important to “connect with people, create a network, and build outwards.” Students attend Middlebury for four years, but larger structural changes may take longer. According to Vedock, movements must “cultivate institutional memory” to have a degree of longevity.

Divest Middlebury, a movement created to divest the college’s endowment from fossil fuels, has been able to sustain itself throughout several generations of Middlebury students. The movement can be traced back until at least 2012, when the students from the Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee pushed the issue into prominence.

Many activists feel responsible for passing along information and resources to younger students, lest the movement die from lack of participants. Divya Gudur ’21, who has been involved in various environment-focused organizations such as SNEG, the Divest Middlebury movement, and Environmental Council, said that SNEG has a Google Drive folder filled with documents containing information from past events, and that they also have a reliable alumni network.

“Over the recent years we have been more and more intentional about our recruiting efforts and have been working towards making sure that underclassmen feel like they have ownership in the organization and the campaigns,” Gudur said. “SNEG has often struggled with retaining activists not only because of burn-out, but also because there seems to be a dichotomy of you’re either all in or on the outside, and we need to make space ... for all levels of participation.”

Students have also found they can build institutional memory by collaborating with a group of people who will remain at Middlebury much longer than themselves: faculty.

Last spring, research assistants for the Gender, Sexually, and Feminist Studies (GSFS) Department, Ruby Edlin ’19.5, Elizabeth Sawyer ’19 and Rebecca Wishnie ’20, gave a presentation titled “Collective Memory, Collective Action: Building a Digital Archive of Student Activism” which explained the ongoing efforts to build a digital feminist archive of campus activism. The project was supervised by Sujata Moorti, who was the chair of the GSFS department at the time, and Karin Hanta, director of Chellis House.



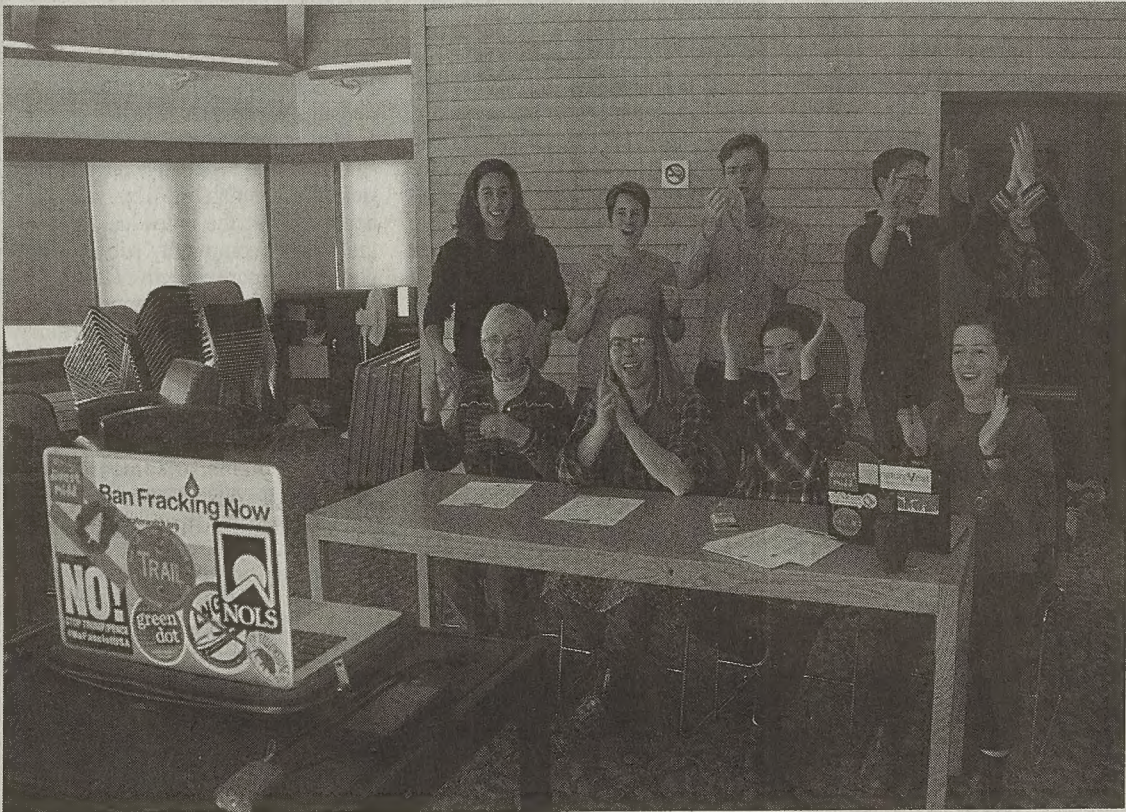
BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury Refugee Outreach Club, Juntos, Sunday Night Environmental Group, a church group in Middlebury, and Standing Up for Racial Justice all partnered for a protest at hannafood two weeks ago.

“I turned to FAM to stay educated about current events and take action in an accessible, fun environment.” Madison Holland ’21 has been involved with the college’s branch of Amnesty International, an international organization that focuses on human rights, and Juntos, a campus organization that advocates for quality working conditions for local farm workers. She said she enjoys building relationships with members of the community through her activism. “It’s important to realize the broader picture, that that there are other people off campus with real lives and real stories,” Holland said. “Especially considering we’re only here for four years and there’s a world out there that we’re going to have to encounter eventually, so we might as well start now.” The college’s small size has other impacts as well: the activist community is very insular, according to Taite Shomo ’20.5 and Grace Vedock ’20, two students with long resumes of campus activism. Amongst other initiatives, Shomo and Vedock are the organizers of It Happens Here (IHH), a storytelling event that draws attention to campus sexual assault. They also helped coordinate The Map Project, which documents

According to Shomo and Vedock, the core group of activists — those who organize most of the major protests and campaigns on campus — is so small that students have created various group chats to connect with other students who are committed to using activism as a tool of social change. “Student activism is difficult for so many reasons. It takes so much time and so much emotional energy. Usually the people that are involved in certain initiatives have been directly affected by those initiatives,” Vedock said. “If the burden is on the affected population to change the culture, it can be extremely bleak.” Vedock said that student activism can be “exhausting,” and Shomo said that doing activism takes energy away from friends, school, family and her own health. This is a common constraint that many students face when organizing changemaking efforts on campus: they are students first, with the primary goal to obtain a degree. With time already a scarce resource in college, it can be difficult to mobilize students for a particular campaign or event. “Students are stakeholders in so many different areas of campus, so I think that’s a struggle — not necessarily in getting people to voice their support but to act

were not subject to any official college discipline. In 2013, a student was suspended for one year for uprooting thousands of flags that were put in the ground as part of a memorial to commemorate the victims of 9/11. The student claimed that the memorial sat on top of an



COURTESY OF VAN BARTH

Divest Middlebury, a movement to divest the college’s endowment from fossil fuels, can be tracked back to at least 2012.

Unrest continues in Chile after most students choose to stay

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ed by what they saw as limitations in the options. To earn full credit if they went home, students would have had to complete Chilean coursework remotely, in addition to a course of summer language school, the cost of which would have been covered by the college. Relocating to Buenos Aires would have allowed students to earn a maximum of 3.5 credits, rather than the full four.

For many students, the easiest way for students to earn full credit would be to remain in Chile, where credit wasn't a guarantee either, because many universities there remain closed. In response, students called and sent emails to the study abroad office requesting more flexible ways to earn credit. Capossela responded by sending students revised options in an email on Oct. 29, which included opportunities to earn more credits in Argentina and at home without taking a language school course.

"We are hearing from some of you that you are feeling like you are forced to remain in Chile because you need to get four credits for this semester," Capossela wrote in that email. "As I had mentioned in a previous message, it certainly was not our intention to preference staying in Chile over any of the other options."

Capossela followed up with another email to students later that day, detailing courses organized by the study abroad office, independent of Chilean universities, that students remaining in Chile would be able to take through Middlebury while host universities remained closed. The five-week long intensive course focuses on social movements in Latin America and is centered on Chile.

"This was big for us because it means we aren't relying on the universities to resume classes in order to get credit, something we thought was unlikely to happen," Mason Arndt '21 said. Arndt is living in Viña Del Mar and chose to remain there for the semester.

Along with the intensive course, students will earn half a credit for each university class they were taking (most took three or four), one letter-grade credit for internships or independent studies and one credit for a writing and culture class that was already part of the Middlebury program. With these options, students have the opportunity to earn the four credits they expected to receive at the start of the semester.

Sidra Pierson '21 was one of 11 students living in the sister cities of Viña Del Mar and Valparaíso who signed a petition asking to remain in Chile when the study abroad office considered an evacuation in October. The guarantees of credit for remaining in Chile only made her more sure of her decision, she said.

"There was a lot I could still get out of the semester even though we're giving up a lot of your typical study abroad experiences," Pierson said. "Getting another month and a half at

the time with my Chilean host family and friends, and speaking Spanish, it all felt worth it."

In Santiago, Mireille Becerra '21 agreed, saying that staying in Chile is "easiest for me compared to all other options." Because her semester in Chile is scheduled to end on Nov. 20, she said, leaving the country made little sense.

Though Chilean president Sebastián Piñera lifted the national state of emergency on Oct. 28, protests and violent government response have continued. Students studying in the sister cities and Santiago have watched protests and police crackdowns in their neighborhoods in the past days.

"Marches with thousands of people take place both on the streets and in plazas, parks, or other commercial sectors," Becerra wrote in an email to The Campus. "Various stores continue to be broken into or set on fire as well. Both to disperse the massive crowds and to stop the robbers, the police use tear gas and water pressure."

In Viña Del Mar, Arndt said, protests did not ease much even after the state of emergency was lifted. On Nov. 12, Pierson watched smoke rise above the city as fires set by arsonists raged, and took video of police clashing with protesters several blocks from her homestay.

"A lot of the violence has continued," Arndt said. "We're limited in our movements and things feel really off. There might be an image of everything going back to normal for students who have stayed, but that's not really the case."

On Nov. 13, administrators in Valparaíso had to cancel a meeting of the intensive course for the second time in two weeks amid concerns about students moving between the sister cities.

"We're all feeling like, 'how the heck are we going to get this course done in the next four weeks?'," Pierson said.

Students scheduled to study in Chile in the spring said they have received mixed messages about whether they will be able to proceed with their semesters abroad as planned.

"I feel that things are really up in the air, and the abroad offices are not offering very clear or specific information," said Ella Houlihan '21, who was planning on studying in Valparaíso in the spring. Some students have filled out applications to study in other locations such as Uruguay, Argentina or Cuba.

"I opened up a second app to Buenos Aires and I'm even considering applying to an external program to Cuba last minute," said Olivia O'Brien '21. "I really hope to go to Santiago, though. If Middlebury runs the program in the spring, it is still my top choice."

According to Capossela, the study abroad office is in conversations with Chile program director Juan Pastene as to options going forward for students scheduled to spend the spring semester there.

"We are planning to let Spring 2020 students know what their options will be by the beginning of December," she wrote in an email to The Campus.

Three decades after forming, social houses still seek identities

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Staff Writer

"No one can disguise the fact that the history of fraternity life has been inseparable from the spirit of the exclusion."

These were the words of seven faculty members who, in 1990, expressed their concerns about Greek life culture in a letter to the Board of Trustees in hopes of addressing the exclusive ethos that dictated Middlebury's social scene.

The first social houses emerged from the dissolution of the fraternity system in 1991. Twenty-eight years later, the College boasts five co-ed social houses: Chromatic, The Mill, Tavern, Xenia, and the newest addition, PALANA.

While each of the houses has a physical space, students do not need to live there to be members. Instead, houses often serve as communal gathering places; each hosts a number of events throughout the year, both for members and the wider campus community. Unlike the Greek life system, social houses are open to anyone and students can be members of more than one.

Since their formation, each house has been grounded in a unique theme. Yet, some students and staff question the extent to which they have served their intended purpose.

"I think the social houses have always searched for an identity," said Karl Lindholm '67, a former dean of students. "I do believe that on their worst day, though, the houses are better than the fraternities that separated the campus into those that deserved to be 'somebody' and those who did not."

Lindholm also served as the chair of the Committee to Restructure the House System, comprised of both students and faculty, which originally pro-

posed the creation of co-ed social houses to the Residential Life Committee in 1991 as the ideal solution in fostering a more inclusive and less misogynistic partying environment. The committee, however, could not reach a consensus on whether the houses would produce this effect, deferring further action to the Community Council.

Community Council was initially opposed to the implementation of social houses out of fear that they would recreate the Greek life atmosphere the college wanted to put an end to. After much deliberation about concerns regarding exclusivity, Community Council conceded, voting to allow for the creation of social houses in the most neutral language possible. They voted 9-6, "in a spirit neither for or against, on the creation of a limited number of co-ed social houses," the 1991 Community Council Resolution on Coeducational Houses read.

The neutral stance taken by much of the college regarding the creation of social houses is reflected today in the infrastructure of the social house system. While the Community Council developed baseline anti-hazing and gender-balance requirements for each house, the houses are completely self-governed by an Inter-House Council consisting of each house president and vice president. These positions are elected by all members of the house.

All in all, this lack of explicit institutional backing has left a lot of leeway for members to define their houses' desired purposes.

"They aren't well defined, but I think that's exactly what they're supposed to be," Lindholm said.

According to the college website, these social houses "fulfill their mission through a diverse array of social events, parties, community service, and other events."

Tavern, for example, prides itself on

Proposed consent training workshops to focus on small group dialogue

Continued from Page 1

Middlebury currently provides mandatory training on sexual violence to all students through Show Some Respect, an interactive online training program by United Educators (UE) that students complete before arriving on campus, McCaleb explained.

"This program includes numerous modules on sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, consent, coercion, incapacitation and bystander intervention," she said. "There are also regular refresher courses offered that students complete throughout their college career."

McCaleb noted, though, that these trainings "don't necessarily create opportunity for group dialogue or discussion about the issues. This is where we are currently trying to expand."

The Office of Health and Wellness Education also provides a mandatory introduction to the Green Dot bystander intervention program during MidView orientation and offers a six-hour bystander intervention training each semester that has been shown to reduce violent incidents on campus, according to McCaleb.

However, Asch and her fellow SRR members saw a need to expand this programming. According to Asch, the online workshop is not as effective as other methods. Instead, students need to sit together and have real discussions about hook-up culture, drinking culture, and more.

"That's where real expectations about how we're going to live together get set," she said. "When I did my research, Middlebury had the least developed program out of any NES-CAC."

Now, Asch has written a prototype for a mandatory training program, which she hopes to launch during the upcoming February orientation. It would be done through "Speak About It," a theatrical-based program that many of the other NES-CACs use. Asch has recommended "Roll Back the Script," a specific package that entails smaller group discussions led by

trained student facilitators.

Since the interview, McCaleb has secured funding for the "Speak About It" program for this February orientation.

Asch's proposal also includes an introduction by McCaleb, in which she would explain the definitions of consent and rape, as well as the Title IX policy at Middlebury.

"I think a lot of preventative training can be too happy-go-lucky, like 'just say no!' If you're really going to take it seriously, you need to get into complexities of what realistic hook-up and drinking culture look like on college campuses," Asch said. "Don't have sex when you're drunk" is not realistic on a college campus. We need to address that."

Providing effective consent education is incredibly important and incredibly difficult, according to Director of Education for Equity and Inclusion Renee Wells.

"It's important because everyone needs to be intentional about both asking about the comfort, desires, and boundaries of partners and articulating their own comfort, desires, and boundaries," she said. "It's also difficult because consent education isn't something that can be easily reduced to a slideshow presentation; it requires having nuanced conversations that don't always have pre-packaged answers."

Asch is not the first to express concern over Middlebury's lack of mandatory consent training for students. Students and administrators have made past attempts at putting one in place.

"I stand on the shoulders of student activists and representatives that have come in years before me," Asch said. "People have tried to do this work and made small changes to the culture in a way that I am now able to get through." She sees her research into other NES-CAC programs and the new administrators as important factors in her success as well.

This fall is the first time in Middlebury's history that there is a full-time violence prevention education professional on campus (Wagner). Wells' position is also relatively new.

"We are in a unique position with

a significant number of college staff dedicated to these issues, to build greater capacity to support and engage our students in smaller, facilitated dialogues about issues like consent," McCaleb said.

"My sense isn't that it was an intentional decision not to offer mandatory consent training," Wells said. "My sense is that it has been an issue of capacity and what staff have been able to provide in the past compared to what we are working to build the capacity to provide in the future."

Asch has also reached out to sports team captains and social house presidents asking them to commit their teams or houses to sign up once workshops are available. Over 20 teams and houses have already committed. She hopes to make regular trainings available throughout the semester.

"Conversations about consent require buy-in and a commitment to dialogue. It's not a 'once and done' type of topic," said Wagner, adding that she is excited about the How Will We Live Together study and its programming recommendations because of their potential to "facilitate those conversations with smaller groups of students and in an ongoing manner."

Now, Asch is working to find funding to train student facilitators.

"We have SRR members willing to facilitate and train, to take on those emotional and social risks for themselves. We have houses and teams who want to participate, who don't feel taken care of on the campus. We have a workshop written, that needs to be edited and approved. What we don't have is training for the facilitators," Asch said.

McCaleb and Asch are discussing the possibility of hiring professional facilitators for the current consent workshops instead of training student in facilitation.

Asch's goal is to have some hundreds of students trained in consent by the end of this school year.

Editor's note: Elissa Asch is the sister of senior news editor Sarah Asch. Sarah was not involved in the reporting or editing of this article.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Tavern's guiding theme has historically been community service, although some students seem to have a different perspective of the house.

building a community predicated on its mission statement values of trust, unity and respect. Community service has historically been its guiding theme, although some students seem to hold an alternate perception of the house.

"All of my friends like to joke that I'm the president of the drinking club," said house president Avery Lopez '20.

Lopez said that the house has done away with a lot of traditions that were "more reminiscent of the fraternity days," and is looking to sponsor more house-wide community service events to preserve the spirit on which it was founded.

Historically, each member has been required to log a certain number of community service hours, but Lopez said this has proven virtually impossible to gauge accurately, and many students have taken advantage of this lack of accountability. This year, she hopes to shift the individual focus of the house's community service component to a more collective effort.

Some of the events planned for later in the year include writing birthday cards for children in hospitals through the Confetti Foundation, and sponsoring fundraising events in conjunction with non-profits around Addison County. As of now, Lopez said she does not have specific information about the organizations the house plans to work with.

Another one of Tavern's service initiatives this year aims to capitalize on the house's reputation for heavy recreational drinking. Throughout the semester, the house has been collecting tabs of beer cans to eventually donate to David's House, an organization which takes the money generated from those beer tabs to provide housing for families whose members are getting treatment at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital.

According to Lopez, this effort represents a step toward the house's in-

tended mission.

"One thing I've really appreciated is that our executive staff is consistently conversing with the former executives about how we can change and evolve as a House," Lopez said.

Lopez said it is common for many Tavern members to also be affiliated with the other social houses such as Chromatic, the Mill and PALANA — excluding Xenia, the substance-free house. A student can join as many social houses as they wish without fear of being denied membership. In order to become a house member, interested students must attend a certain amount of rush events, which can range from a movie night to indoor field hockey. Once students become a part of the pledge class, they go through unique initiation rituals.

Some social houses are more explicitly committed to certain initiatives than others. PALANA, (Pan-African, Latino, Asian and Native American), for example, is Middlebury's newest social house and a former academic interest house that has long fostered a close-knit community among students from marginalized groups at Middlebury. Previously located at 97 Adirondack View, PALANA found its new home as an official social house in Palmer this year.

PALANA is predominantly a space for students of color, that "seeks to create a space or community which has diversity and highlights all backgrounds by acknowledging and celebrating people of all identity groups," President Tre Stephens '21 said.

In the last two months, the house has hosted a series of events, including house Sunday brunches, an open-house disco night and multiple movie nights. PALANA also plans to do a community dinner over Thanksgiving, a poetry slam event and an alumni mixer later in the year.

Chromatic and The Mill are the two

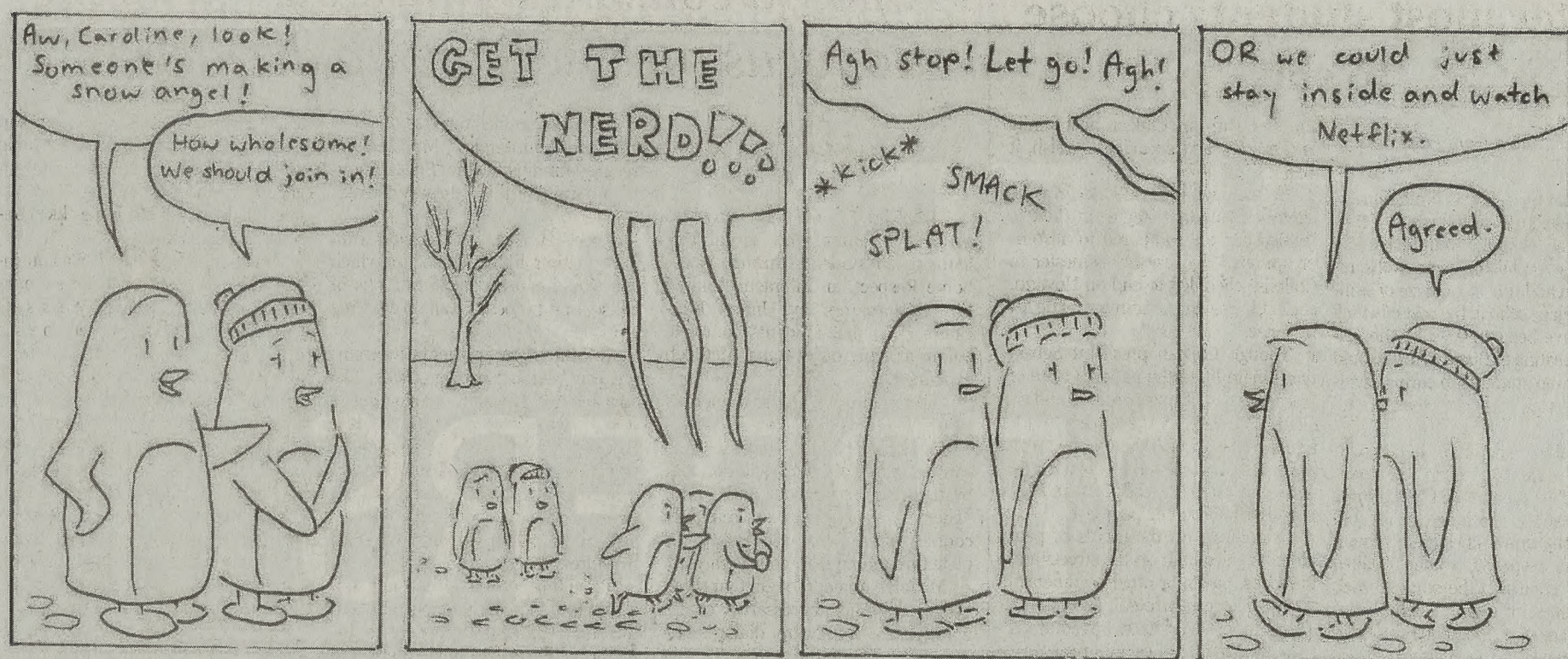
social houses known to fill the art and music niche on campus, but Mill President Brenna Wilson '20 is working to dilute the exclusionary allure that The Mill in particular can create. Wilson said that the house can sometimes appear intimidating for prospective members, although its technical mission is to "maintain a diverse membership irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation or creed," according to the 2013 Social House Biennial Review.

"I used to think that you had to dress a certain way and you had to smoke American Spirits and you had to listen to the right artists," she said. The Mill frequently has concerts in the house basement, and appoints a member to plan concerts throughout the year.

Both Chromatic and The Mill are trying to host events that breach into different categories. Chromatic Co-President Scott Powell '20 said that the house is working on trying to incorporate an observed interest in culinary arts into events with studio and performing arts. Chromatic hopes to have an official art showcase open to the rest of the campus by the end of this year.

"The other thing I know all social houses are looking at is outreach," Powell said, as not much is known about houses such as Xenia, which aims to foster a communal environment where members can socialize in a substance free space, according to the 2013 review. The co-presidents of Xenia, Dean Arredondo '20 and Jillian Ohikuare '20, could not be reached for comment.

"My rough estimate is that only about a quarter of students are active members of social houses, and I think we should advertise a little more about what we are and why social houses are a valuable part of Middlebury's community," Powell said.



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Rifles and raffles: Youth Deer Weekend gives aspiring hunters early practice

By KAITLYN GIROUARD
Contributing Writer

From sunrise to sunset on Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10, local Vermont youth took to the woods all across the state in hopes of a successful deer hunt. This Youth Deer Weekend is one of the three hunting weekends in Vermont geared toward younger generations of hunters. The event precedes the opening of rifle season by one week. This gives youth — defined by Vermont Fish and Wildlife as those 15 and younger — the chance to get into the field before the deer season opens to older, more experienced hunters.

"Youth weekend originally began as a youth day before being expanded to a full weekend," Vermont Game Warden Wesley Butler said. Butler currently covers the Southern half of Addison County and remembers participating in the youth season himself when he was growing up in the area.

"I got a 128 lb four-pointer on Saturday," said Colby Butler, a successful local youth hunter. Colby started hunting when he was seven years old and is now 15. "I think that [youth weekend] is a really good time. I kind of like it more than regular season." For him, youth weekend is really about family. "Whenever I think of youth hunting I think of time with my brothers," he said.

Butler explained that there are multiple laws that apply to youth deer season that are not present during what is often referred to as the "regular season," which is open to all ages. During youth weekend a youth hunter must be accompanied by a licensed but unarmed adult to provide an experienced mentor for aspiring hunters as they are introduced to the activity. Youth hunters are also required to ask for permission on the land that they wish

to hunt on — even if that land is not posted or otherwise restricted. This measure aims to teach youth about respect for land and community members. Youth Deer Weekend allows participants to hunt deer regardless of the deer's antlers or sex, which increases the opportunities for shots. Biologists can learn valuable information about the health of the herd from the does (female deer) and spike horns (small bucks which are illegal in the regular season) that youth hunters can hunt during this weekend. This information, which is otherwise unavailable, can help inform policy recommendations.

In terms of law enforcement, Game Wardens said that they want youth to have a positive experience, encourage hunters to take the season seriously and use the weekend for what it's intended for. For this reason, Butler says that youth weekend violations result in increased fines and, potentially, the loss of an adult's hunting and fishing license.

This year Vermont Fish and Wildlife and local Middlebury businesses teamed up to host an Operation Game Thief event during youth weekend. The event, held at G. Stone Motors and Vermont Field Sports on Rt. 7, included raffles, discussions with game wardens and a barbeque for the community.

"We put together a youth event for the kids and the community to get them out and educate them about hunting and the different aspects of it," said Tara Raymond, the Finance Manager for G. Stone Motors.

In addition to hosting, there were raffle prizes such as a lifetime hunting license, a Ruger gun donated by Vermont Field Sports, a shoulder mount by Bragg's Taxidermy and a wildlife woodburning by Dattilio Artwork.



KAITLYN GIROUARD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Community members 15 and younger were able to participate in the Youth Deer Weekend last Saturday and Sunday. At the event, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Operation Game Thief trailer displayed animals and firearms.

Youth check in their deer by bringing them to certified weigh stations like VT Field Sports, and Rack 'N Reel in New Haven, Vermont. Manager for Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources Amy Alfieri was stationed at this location to examine the deer that were brought in. "The deer being brought in over the past couple years have had good fat on them and the population seems to be healthy," Alfieri said, and went on to explain the examination process. She measures the spread (the widest distance) of the antlers on a buck, the quantity and health of the teeth to estimate age, and

removes an incisor tooth from the deer to be professionally analyzed in a lab out of state. Alfieri also weighs the deer, visually assesses its health, and asks the hunters questions to understand if it was dressed properly in the field.

Tanner, 11, and his dad Chris Alexopoulos, a Fisheries and Wildlife Specialist for Green Mountain National Forest, visited the Operation Game Thief event between their time in the field on Sunday. Tanner shot his first deer when he was nine and hoped to get another one this year.

"Tanner is a fourth-generation Vermont wild game hunter,"

Chris said. "The youth weekend is imperative. We have to keep the young sportsman involved and active."

The state hopes that having youth weekends will encourage participation and get new sportsmen and women who will take on the role of maintaining the healthy conservation of the beautiful Vermont wildlife. There are many hunting courses throughout the state and around the year. Interested youth can also attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp to learn more.

"Planapalooza" creates new community conversations

By KATIE MURPHY
& JACK SUMMERSBY
Contributing Writers

This past weekend, members of the Middlebury community had the opportunity to express their hopes and concerns for downtown development during the Town's "Planapalooza." Over the course of four days, Planapalooza held several events to bring public input into the development of the new Middlebury Downtown Master Plan. "Planapalooza" is a distinct strategy of Town Planning and Urban Design Collaborative (TPUDC), the firm leading the project.

TPUDC is the lead consultant working to develop the master plan with the Middlebury Planning Commission led by Town Planner Jennifer Murray. Brian Wright, principal and founder of the firm, said that Middlebury is receiving grants from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Fund.

The firm is employing charette, a style of planning characterized by intense periods of design and planning activity that stresses collaboration and conversation, to emphasize transparency and public participation. TPUDC has used this process in several other college towns including Lewiston, Maine and Manchester, N.H.

Planapalooza events included focus group sessions on Saturday morning, and a pin-up presentation Saturday evening. In addition to meetings, TPUDC held Open Studio hours in their temporary office on 51 Main St., encouraging community participation and input for this long-term project.

Emily Wright has been with the firm for 14 years and mentions how she especially enjoys working with Vermont towns because it is wonderful to see people who "love and care for the surrounding nature." On Saturday, Nov. 10, the planning group held a Sustainability and Resiliency meeting open to the public; one of the main topics discussed was how Middlebury should confront the current climate crisis.

Steve Maeir, a concerned citizen, said Middlebury needs a vision. "We need to set enforceable goals to meet the requirements of Paris climate accord and support a transition to an economy that is no longer based on fossil fuels," he said. Maeir acknowledged, however, that this transition may put economic, political and social pressures on communities, and it may



COURTESY PHOTO

Community members participated in a focus group meeting as part of the Planapalooza master planning process.

even "compromise certain aspects of business and ways of life."

Maeir thinks the college is taking steps in the right direction with its Middlebury Energy2028 plan, the college's commitment to transitioning to using only renewable energy to power and heat its central campus. The college should "continue to be more aggressive in its footprint" and keep setting examples for the entire town, he said.

Another focal point of the weekend was transportation and mobility. TPUDC's data review found that 81% of downtown customers drive to the downtown area, which citizens acknowledged heightens parking concerns and highlights the need to improve transportation. Eli Madden, a Middlebury resident of 36 years, believes safe pedestrian and biking infrastructure is important for environmental safety reasons, but also for social justice and community development.

"Our most vulnerable community members often have to walk or ride bikes, not by choice, and often at busy, dark times of day," he said, mentioning missed opportunities for modern infrastructure like a bike lane on the Cross Street Bridge, which was completed in 2010 and partially funded by the college. Madden also discussed inadequate sidewalk clearance and

visibility. Several citizens mentioned poor snow plowing that endangered pedestrians and cyclists.

Madden believes that students at the college "have an opportunity here to help get some good results and make some real change." He said that students, many of who have bikes, can pressure the town and college to adopt modern guidelines for all future projects, and can vote in selectboard elections.

Charlotte Tate, associate director at the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs, has worked in Middlebury since 1992 and walks from the college to the Co-op four times a week. Tate echoed similar concerns to Madden, saying a "pedestrian friendly downtown" is necessary if the town wants to attract more students, families and residents shopping and eating locally.

Residents were divided as to what types of stores should comprise the downtown area. Catherine Nichols said the loss of Ben Franklin is felt by the community and that the general store was well-loved. According to focus group participants, having an affordable, successful shop like the general store downtown could be another way to increase student and resident traffic through the town.

In the public pin-up and review presentation on Saturday night,

TPUDC recapped the concerns citizens expressed over the past few days and presented potential areas for improvement. Attendees were also part of a visual preference survey, where consultants presented pictures of houses and residents were asked if they liked a particular style in the context of Middlebury. Later in the evening, John Stover, the economic developer from Washington, DC hired by Wright, proposed possible solutions and plans of action to address these concerns.

As part of their process, TPUDC spoke with the owners of dozens of downtown stores like the Marquis Theater, and were surprised to hear that students rarely were their customers. In order to address this issue, Stover spoke with college representatives about the potential for students' declining balance to be accepted at downtown stores or even finding a way to include restaurant meals in our meal plan. After speaking with both parties, Stover said both "Middlebury store owners and the college did not seem opposed to the idea."

Amazon has had an impact on downtown businesses, as many students prefer to shop online out of convenience. As Amazon continues to dominate and grow e-commerce, downtown businesses have lost a large portion of their student

customer base. One proposal mentioned in the Saturday night pin-up was to have college Amazon deliveries be sent directly to Amazon lockers in town instead, requiring students go downtown to pick up their Amazon packages.

When Becca Brownstein '23 was asked what she thought about extending the swipe system to downtown restaurants, she said, "I definitely think that will encourage students to go into downtown more as budgeting is often a concern and declining balances make it easy to track spending on food." Becca said Amazon Lockers could be an inconvenience for students, especially during winter months. However, she said that "if the circumstances of this shift are explained to students in the larger context" of supporting and growing local businesses, "then people would be more likely to be receptive of the idea."

The firm is prioritizing housing density downtown, riverfront development and stormwater improvements in its plan. Community members applauded the firm's intent to incorporate green infrastructure to better manage runoff for pedestrians and drivers. In terms of riverfront development, Wright saw Bakery Lane as a point of major potential with the possibility of developing a mixed-use area and a more scenic river walk.

Multiple longtime residents expressed their belief that Middlebury has a history of projecting its commitment to sustainability without following through on these ideals. The new plan, therefore, presents a new opportunity to prioritize sustainability in future developments.

Resident Leslie Caer Amadora agreed with the fact that Middlebury needs some structural and strategic renovations. However, she stressed the importance of maintaining the town's character throughout this process by "creating an infrastructure that holds the webbing to connect and diversify our town."

Following Planapalooza, community members will have more opportunities to voice their ideas. A closing presentation, previously scheduled for Monday, Nov. 11 will now take place on Friday, Nov. 15 due to snow. The firm's data will be refined during the winter and a draft plan will be delivered in the spring, with a targeted delivery date of July 2020. More information on the creation of the Town Master Plan can be found at townofmiddlebury.org.

One year in, Haymaker Bun Co. and The Arcadian celebrate good food and better community

By HAEUN PARK
Contributing Writer

Caroline and Matt Corrente, owners of Haymaker Bun Co. and The Arcadian, are spending a lot of time reflecting on the last 12 months. This Sunday marks the one-year anniversary of both eateries, a milestone that the Correntes are celebrating by hosting a special four-course dinner. The event, announced on their Facebook page at the end of October, sold out within five days, capped at 60 reservations.

Both Haymaker Bun Co. and The Arcadian are located at 7 Bakery Lane. During the daytime, the riverside building is under Caroline's domain, where her Haymaker staff serves French pastries, buns and café drinks. By night it transforms into the Arcadian, a restaurant that hosts an Italian fine-dining experience run by her husband, Matt.

"In the morning, I'm trying to channel this French, metropolitan-focused bakery with an excellent coffee program and a really tight collection of ever-changing pastries," Caroline said. "Then it flips to nighttime, where we are trying to do modern Italian [food] with fresh, handmade pastas, wonderful fish, and great, Italian wines. They're two different vibes which is refreshing, but they work very well together."

The dual space, formerly The Lobby, opened in November 2018.

"The fact that it's been a year [since opening] is crazy," Caroline said. "In one sense it feels like the time has just flown by, and in another sense it feels like I've been doing this forever. I can't really remember life before this place."

Running the two businesses hasn't been without trial and trib-

ulation. Due to the old age of the building, the Correntes ran into heating issues in their first winter. Their hood system had sucked all the heat out of the building and caused it to run cold for a few months. The couple also had to replace a broken main oven. Caroline Corrente said that before Haymaker, she wasn't very familiar with staff management, something that she credits her husband as having more experience with.

"It's been a learning curve coming into restaurant ownership," Caroline said. "Matt has a lot more experience than I do. Overall, we've been really lucky with just a great team here."

Although the two restaurants are relatively new, the Correntes are not new to the area. The couple moved to Middlebury from Burlington in the summer of 2015, three years after Caroline graduated from the University of Vermont. Before starting on their own venture, Matt worked as the head chef of Two Brothers Tavern and as opening chef at Notte. Caroline worked as a baker at Otter Creek Bakery at that time.

"I think that we were attracted to Middlebury in the first place because it's not just a plain old small town in Vermont," Matt said. "The college keeps the town current. It brings in new faces year after year, and that to me gives Middlebury something that a lot of small towns don't have: a sense of worldliness."

Matt also mentioned that many Italian Professors from the College have come to the Arcadian. "It's nice to have them show up and tell us that we have spelling errors in our menus and keep us honest in that regard."

The couple emphasizes the importance of what the community



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Caroline and Matt Corrente, owners of Haymaker Bun Co. and The Arcadian, are set to host a four-course dinner for 60 people to celebrate the one-year anniversary of both service establishments.

brings to their business.

"I'm overwhelmed by the support that we've gotten from the community in general," Caroline said. "At Haymaker, it's so wonderful to see friends bumping into each other and sitting together when they hadn't planned to see each other that morning. Members of the community having a place to come together is wonderful."

Overall, Matt and Caroline emphasized the relationship between their businesses and their community.

"People are using us to celebrate the best things that are happening in their lives," Matt said. "We are very humbled by that. Making oth-

er people happy through our food and service is what keeps us coming back every day to do it."

When looking towards the future, Haymaker Bun Co. and The Arcadian are thinking about extending their hours in the morning and expanding their lunch options. They also mentioned potentially expanding to a barn location due to their popularity.

"We want to be able to say yes to everybody who wants to come in and eat," Matt said. "There's always those big college weekends where we feel like we just need a big room that we can put everybody in and feed them. We'll see if the barn ever turns into a reality."

Ultimately, the celebratory anniversary dinner represents not only the passion the Correntes have for the food that they make, but also their fondness for the town of Middlebury.

"I love what we do here," Caroline said. "I love making people happy with great food and great wine. I love giving people these great experiences both in day and night time. I love being able to support local farms and producers and give roughly 35 amazing individuals a job here. All these things accumulate and just make me wake up excited and energized every day."

One stop shopping: Stone Mill's grand opening draws coffee connoisseurs and market meanderers

By RAIN JI
Layout Editor

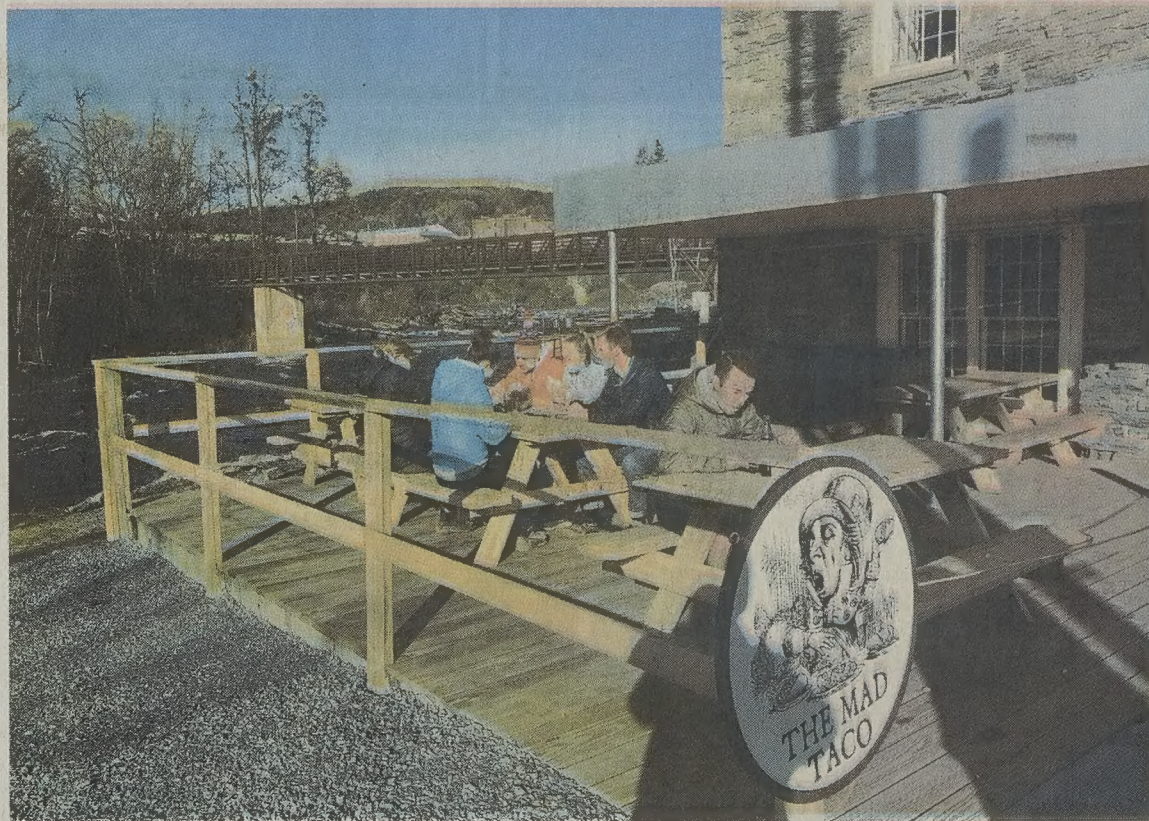
After months of anticipation, The Stone Mill had its grand opening on Saturday, Nov. 9. By 10 a.m., Stacey Rainey and Mary Cullinane, owners of The Stone Mill, were ready to welcome customers from Middlebury and nearby towns. According to the Community Barn Ventures website, the building now has five floors, featuring a public market with the Lost Monarch Coffee, a co-working space, four lodging units and The Mad Taco restaurant. Rainey was excited about the Stone Mill's soft opening two weeks ago, and that the space is now ready to welcome more people from the community. "The co-working space upstairs is going well," she said, "and the [AirBnB] rooms will be available starting Sunday."

Lost Monarch Coffee was many people's first stop as they entered the public market. Head Brewer Daniel Gutierrez '23 has been in the coffee industry for over five years. As he began his academic life at Middlebury this year, he hoped to continue his passion for coffee nearby. Luckily, he was offered an opportunity by Aless and Matt Delia-Lóbo, owners of Royal Oak Coffee, the sister brand of Lost Monarch Coffee. He hopes that the coffee shop can become a community hub. "So many beautiful relationships and connections take place at a café," Gutierrez said. "There is so much value to a common space in town."

Residents welcomed this addition to Middlebury. "I love the idea of having a good coffee shop in town," said Susan James, a Middlebury resident, "especially when it's open on the weekends." Dan Golstein, a Middlebury College exchange student from the UK, was very pleased with his latte. "The milk wasn't overly fluffy and it was perfectly smooth," he said. "The strength of the coffee hits just right."

Nina Ng '23 enjoyed her Gibraltar coffee, too. "It's a smooth light blend," she said. "The undertone of sourness freshens up the coffee."

The public market is divided into individual spaces dedicated for Slate Home, Vermont Book Shop, The Stone Mill Collection and Dedalus Wine Shop. "We wanted to make the space flexible for everyone," Rainey said. Cullinane envisioned the place to be



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Mad Taco, which boasts a creek-side patio, is one of many new establishments that locals and college students visited at The Stone Mill's grand opening.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Vermont Book Shop has a satellite retail location at the Public Market inside the Stone Mill.

a destination for the community. "Visitors can come to celebrate everything that is great about Vermont," she said. Slate Home features a variety of beautiful products ranging from blankets, earrings to wallets. The Stone Mill Collection has a variety of Rainey

and Cullinane's favorite things that are made available now for community members or visitors to shop. Notably, the public market sells products of Skida, a brand created by Corinne Prevot '13 in high school, which she expanded during her years at Middlebury

College. Rainey intentionally chose to introduce the cashmere Skida line to decrease competition with other local businesses that sell the traditional line.

The Stone Mill terrace, although icy and bare on Saturday, was noticed by many. "It would be

a great space for a cup of coffee with a book during spring time," Rainey said. Many customers look forward to stepping outside and enjoying the view of Otter Creek once the weather gets warmer. Derek Fallon and Ali Dwienll from Vergennes, Vermont visited on Saturday. "We've been to Mad Taco a couple of times, it's really good. We're excited for this new place because it's always nice to have more things that bring people into town."

At 11 a.m., as more people filled the space, Ingrid gave customers a tour of the space upstairs. The co-working space is delicately decorated with wall art, and the view outside of the windows is simply breath-taking. There is an after-hour staircase and elevator designated for the co-working space as well as the lodge units. As of now, there are two private phone booths, two private offices, a conference room, a kitchen and an open working space. The rent is set at \$125 per month, and the space has attracted 18 individuals to sign up so far.

The lodge area was put together by Slate Home. The decoration is thoughtful, consistent and elegant. With carefully chosen rugs to make the place home-like, many visitors expressed their wishes to spend special occasions there. "This is totally exciting," said Jolene Newton, academic coordinator of the French Department at Middlebury. "I think the mixed use of the space is very smart."

Stepping out of the public market, many were attracted to The Mad Taco. By noon, the space was packed with eager customers. Nina Ng said the Yam taco was exceptionally good. "Layers of black beans, roasted yam, sweet potato, and shredded pickled cabbage create a very hearty taco," she said. "The coriander adds an element of freshness to lighten up the entire taco with more richness." Amina Matavia '23 enjoyed an Al Pastor taco. She said, "I'm no food critic, but I really enjoyed the taco. The meat was shredded finely and it was very flavorful."

The Old Stone Mill really has it all: a place to work, spend the night, drink coffee, shop Vermont products and enjoy tacos. Cullinane hopes that the multi-dimensional space will expand and grow to be another social hub for the local community and beyond.

"It's a collection of wonderful people doing wonderful things," she said.

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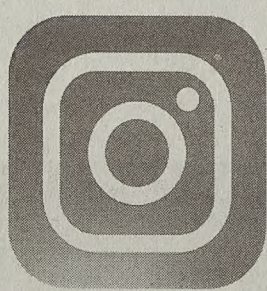
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Chat first, cancel second

You've probably seen the posts: you're scrolling through Facebook or Twitter, and a status or tweet pops up letting you know that so-and-so is "canceled." More often than not, the statement is all you get; there isn't any explanation as to why that person is canceled or what that might entail. Still, cancellations travel fast. In the wake of the #MeToo Movement, actors seen as problematic disappeared from Netflix shows. Comedians' tours were postponed or scrapped altogether. In response to the R. Kelly scandal, Spotify even created a feature which allows listeners to "mute" specific artists (ensuring that they no longer appear in playlists, libraries or recommended mixes).

In short, cancel culture seems to have hit an all-time high.

On a basic level, canceling someone means refusing to engage with them. It means announcing, effectively, that someone's beliefs and actions are beyond repair — and, as a consequence, you're calling for their removal. This was the broader culture that came under fire recently from former President Obama, who, in an interview about youth activism, urged our generation to rethink how harshly we judge others. To clarify: in his interview, Obama criticized "call-outs" rather than "cancels," which are a little different. "Calling out" connotes drawing attention to problematic beliefs or statements without providing a course of action for moving forward. Often, calling out is a step on the way to canceling (which, as it effectively removes any hope of moving forward, is decidedly more extreme). According to our former President, "calling out" isn't activism.

We disagree. At least, partly. We endorse a more nuanced understanding of "calling out" and "canceling."

Calling out and canceling aren't inherently bad. They also aren't all that new — in many ways, the impulse underlying call-outs or cancels is the same one behind boycotts, strikes or walkouts. By not showing up, literally or figuratively, to make space or provide a platform for certain issues and figures, you send a message. In this way, canceling can

be incredibly activating; it allows you to punch up, to reclaim lost agency in the face of enormous, dehumanizing corporations and celebrities worth billions of dollars. And, more often than not, the harshness or extremity behind those cancellation statements is what lends those upward punches their very power.

Still, it's worth interrogating the different, subtle ways that social

media transforms the cancellation impulse. Online, canceling becomes all too easy: You can cancel someone or something in the time it takes to rattle off a couple of words and click "post." The result is that, for many, canceling has become reflexive. And that reflex has extended beyond the internet and into the way that we interact with others in our day to day lives. Even in person, we're quick to call people out. In a matter of seconds, we shut them down.



Those shut-downs become a lot more complicated at a place like Middlebury. Here, we aren't canceling far-removed, top-tier celebrities (who, as far as most of us are concerned, only exist in the form of tweets or television guest spots). If and when we cancel at Middlebury, we're canceling our classmates, the people we belong to clubs with or pass on College Street.

That kind of cancellation calls for a little more thought. The last few years have seen a rise in cancellation efforts at Middlebury. We regularly call out or cancel students, professors and staff members

shouldn't cancel at Middlebury. That's your call. As we've said, sometimes canceling can be OK, even constructive. Canceling can constitute an important form of self-defense or an attempt to send a message when other institutions fail (the "list," for instance, was largely released in response to the administration's inadequate efforts to address sexual assault on campus). Other times, students', professors' and staff members' repeated, obvious unwillingness to uphold values of tolerance and inclusivity leave us little choice but to cancel. At a place like Middlebury, where harassment, discrimination and abuse can go woefully unaddressed by the college, voicing cancellations often forms a vital, tangible tool for change.

Still, we'd caution you to think twice before transplanting virtual cancellation impulses into your immediate, everyday lives. At Middlebury, online or in-persons cancels can have immediate, even irrevocable impacts on the way that students inhabit the college's very small, very real space. Sometimes, those can-

celations seem unavoidable. Other times, they inhibit the kinds of growth we came to Middlebury to undergo in the first place.

Unfortunately, the nature and size of Middlebury's social scene often encourages premature canceling. Rumors spread quickly, so that their subjects are sometimes canceled before they have a chance to defend themselves. Sometimes, entire groups of people (say, sports teams or Febs) are canceled by other groups on the basis of assumptions or predictions. Situations like those don't demand cancels. Instead, they provide vital opportunities for others to learn, to ask questions and improve their own understandings of difficult and controversial topics. There are other times, however, when the burden of education cannot and should not fall on you. Then, canceling might be the best way to send a message. It might even be the only course of activism left.

It's worth interrogating, too, the ways in which cancels are unevenly distributed among the student body. Just as white, male celebrities bounce back faster from social media cancels (see: Louis C.K.), so too are more privileged members of the Middlebury community often given the benefit of the doubt. We need to be careful that, in wielding our own cancellation tools, we don't simply exacerbate the already profound power disparities which exist on campus.

At the end of the day, it comes down to determining the most effective way to send a message. Ideally, that message can be sent through conversation. This is what we think Obama was getting at: Rather than simply judging, we should strive for constructive, progress-producing conversations. Ideally, those conversations precede cancellation, hopefully rendering it unnecessary.

editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

Let's talk about sex, please

Hey Midd,

We are your SGA Sexual and Relationship Respect committee (SRR). Not only do we represent you, but I think we have a common goal. We believe that sexual respect is crucial to making this campus a better place. On that note, we want to make sure that students have access to sexual and relationship resources on campus. We want to make sure that students are aware of these resources, that our campus culture promotes consent and respect and that we can accurately represent the thoughts and needs of the student body in our work. We recognize that students at Midd have varying levels of knowledge, experience and engagement with these issues. Still, we want everyone to be on the same page.

That's where you come in. SRR cannot accurately represent the diversity of your experiences and ideas or the uniqueness of our student body if students aren't involved in the work that we do. We believe student feedback is important, and we need more of it.

A couple years ago, we heard from students that it was difficult to ac-

cess safe sex supplies on campus. We thought we could do better. In response, over the last two years we've worked with Parton, ResLife and fa-

op-ed

The SRR is the SGA's Sexual and Relationship Respect Committee.

cilities to place free pads, tampons, condoms, lube and dental dams in all the first-year and sophomore dorms. This year, SRR proposed a bill which was passed in the SGA Senate, ensuring that these resources will remain available to students in the future.

This year, SRR is focusing on the confusion and frustration with the Title IX process. We're asking questions like, do students at Middlebury understand how the Title IX reporting process works? Do students understand that there's a difference between making a complaint and actually reporting to start an investigation? In order for students to feel comfortable and confident accessing Title IX resources on campus, they

should know the answers to these questions. We are currently trying to tackle this confusion by beginning to circulate accurate and clear information answering these questions and more.

Students have told us that they want to see a change regarding the culture of sexual assault on campus. Last year we responded with the Complicity Project, which was displayed in Davis last spring and earlier this semester. The display included survey data and interviews from students and faculty regarding how every individual can



SARAH FAGAN

challenge their complicity day to day. We believe that individual change is what facilitates a change in campus culture, so it's important for students to consider how they can improve the way they interact with topics of sexual

assault on campus.

For years, students have expressed a desire for consent training during orientation. Current Middlebury students have expressed the same desire. Sports teams, social houses, student orgs and individuals have all reached out to the SGA or SRR asking for this development. After substantial research on similar programming at other NESAC schools, SRR is collaborating with administrators to implement mandatory consent workshops during first-year orientation. We hope to start this programming this February. Similarly, we're working to bring in professionally-facilitated consent workshops that would be available to all students and student groups on campus.

All of this is to say that it is when you engage with us that we are most productive and beneficial to you. Before this, you may not have known about SRR and you may not have been aware of our initiatives. But when it comes to topics of sexual and relationship respect, we are the link between you, the student body and our administration. Student government functions most effectively with student input, and so we implore you to actively engage in these conversations and share your feedback with us.

Proximity

I woke up Thursday morning to loud voices outside my door. I am not someone who enjoys being jostled from sleep by someone else's conversation, however interesting. As a result, my internal monologue went along the lines of, "Who do these loud people think they are?"

And then I began listening to their conversation.

"It will be nice to have weekends off, now," said one voice.

"Where were you working before this?" asked the other.

"I did security. I worked at McDonald's for a little bit, too."

They shared a laugh, from which I guessed that neither of them thought very highly of the employment opportunities offered by Ronald McDonald.

Then, the second voice asked, "How old are you?"

"I'm 22," the first voice replied.

22. The person behind that voice was 22 years-old and cleaning bathrooms used by people about their age — people like me. That voice was 22 and spent what might otherwise have been their college

years working seven days a week, while I am spending mine typing out op-eds and essays.

I am undoubtedly a member of the middle class. At Middlebury, there are many people who are more affluent than my family and I. There are also people who are as well-off as I am. There are also people who grew up with far less than I did (at least socioeconomically speaking).

On campus, discussion often turns to money. Money, here, is a topic of contention. There are people — and I have been this person at times — who roll their eyes at those who are from more affluent backgrounds. But the aspect of wealth I dislike is not the wealth. The aspect of wealth I abhor is the distance it creates. This distance can be observed in assumptions that we make about people whose socioeconomic statuses are different from our own. These assumptions range from assuming a person is able to buy a flashy new sweatshirt, to more severe notions such as the belief that peers attending community colleges are not motivated or ambitious. These kinds of money-related assumptions are not always symptoms of cruelty or malice, but are often simply the result of igno-

rance. This is an ignorance that I am not immune to.

In fact, this ignorance is why I was shocked to awaken to a 22-year-old talking about their previous work experience. I was shocked because, surrounded by my primarily wealthy or comfortable peers at Middlebury, I had forgotten my own privilege. Still, that conversation reminded me — first thing in the morning — that I am someone who is lucky. Lucky enough to forget about questions of distance and ignorance and privilege on a Thursday morning; lucky enough to attend a school where someone else (someone who is only a few years older than me) takes out the trash and wipes down the bathroom mirror.

I thought about that for a moment — thought about the way this other world was existing right beside my own. I shivered thinking that, if things had shaken out differently, that voice and I could have ended up in class together.

I began to reflect on the good fortune I had taken for granted — the way I had the means to spontaneously travel to Boston for Fall Break, the way my mother was determined to minimize my college debt. I thought about the way

my aunt always wiped down the counter with a washcloth when we stayed at hotels, saying that she wanted to leave less work for whoever had to clean up after us. And then I thought about all the dried-yellow urine that was left on our Gifford toilet seat after every weekend, about this voice that was being trained to clean it up. I thought about the invisibility of their world, their world that did not have the opportunity that I had. Their world was right outside my door. I wasn't going to forget that. I sighed and got up to use the bathroom.

Writer's note: I would like to note that this op-ed makes the assumption that the "voice" is working as a custodian as a result of not attending school. I do not know the full story of this individual, as this is a conversation that I overheard. This piece is a reflection of myself, and I would like to acknowledge that I know only the context of my own privilege.

op-ed

Ariadne Will is a member of the class of 2022.

Is this a magic trick?

At this point, it's certainly starting to feel like one.

A few weeks ago, I was disappointed to see the removal of the commons system. I felt very strongly about it, in large part due to my position in SGA as a commons senator and as one of the members of the Wonnacott Commons Council. Mostly, I was disturbed by the implications which the commons change holds for the structure of student representation in SGA moving forward.

As a result of that frustration, I drafted a bill. My bill would effectively maintain the current SGA Senate structure by replacing the five commons senators with a similar senate position (to be put into effect next school year). While my initial proposal was not passed, it sparked conversation. In particular, the SGA Senate found itself debating: what is the most effective way to structure our student government in a method that best represents students, increases SGA legitimacy and holds us accountable as a body?

In ensuing conversations, our 17-person senate offered a diverse range of opinions. Some believe the solution is an 11-person senate (created by removing both the Commons senator positions and the co-chair of Community Council from the senate); others

believe the solution is adding another class senator position. At the end of the day, there is one idea we agree on without question or doubt: there will be changes to the Student Government Association's structure moving forward.

I have had a lot of time to reflect throughout this process. I have thought about questions of representation, legitimacy and accountability time and time again

op-ed

Myles Maxie is the Wonnacott Commons Senator and a member of the class of 2022.

over the last two weeks. I've come up with over six potential models based on the successes and failures of SGAs in comparable institutions. And yet even in light of research, reaching out to peer institutions and drafting and re-drafting different models, I still felt something missing from my equation.

I realized that, as a student representative, I need to do a better job of representing the ideas of others on this issue (instead of behaving singularly). As a representative of approximately 20% of the student body, I needed to be con-

sulting people on the system they want to represent them moving forward. That is what I have been trying to do for the last few weeks.

Generally, I try my absolute best to do speak candidly with my constituents to get their feedback. I am in constant conversation with a variety of people both inside and outside of my commons, trying to understand more about what other students at Middlebury care about. In doing so, I have gotten an incredible amount of insight into the things that matter to a broad cross-section of the student body. That is the type of work that is important to me. That is the type of on-the-ground work that promotes a student government's sense of legitimacy and encourages accountability.

Last year's Campus's Zeitgeist survey showed that 53.4% of respondents felt indifferently or negatively about the performance of SGA. This trend has developed over the course of many years, during which people have had a net negative or indifferent opinion on the SGA as a whole. Historically, similar sentiments were recorded in which many students do not know what the SGA does, how it operates or even who is in it. This suggests that, in part, people were apathetic due to a lack of knowledge. That's a problem.

It's a problem that is only solved by direct interactions, communication, transparency and gaining the input of the student body.

At the end of the day, SGA operations shouldn't be comparable to a magic trick. There shouldn't be a veil or smoke and mirrors disguising what's going on. There shouldn't be any magician's secrets or keeping the best tricks of the trade from the public. These instances would only further the apathy of students as a whole and act counter to constructing a senate that is accountable and legitimate.

This is in no way meant to be antagonistic or an overly-harsh criticism; however, it is an unapologetic call to action for being deliberate, on both the part of SGA and the general student body. The way forward in this process is conversation, and that is a two-way initiative. Students should be well informed by their representatives on what is going on. To that end, students should feel enabled — and are encouraged — to use their voice to speak to their SGA representatives.

This isn't a magic trick. Still, I think students and the SGA can do wonders together.

Ask Tré



Tré Stephens answers the Middlebury community's burning questions.

Dear Tre,

If you had the power to change one thing about Middlebury College campus culture today, what would it be and why?

-Anonymous

Dear Reader,

If I had the power to change one thing at Middlebury, it would be the sense of entitlement that many students have here. Many students here at Middlebury College are a part of the top 1%. If you don't know what being in the top 1% means, it means that the students got MONEY!!!! And let me be frank: it isn't the wealth I'm mad about, it's the sense of entitlement. However, let's be honest. Entitlement stems from having a good amount of wealth.

Why would I change the sense of entitlement? Well, many Midd students have a habit of making those without money feel like sh**. Most of the time, they do that through displays of entitlement. Not sure if your behavior is entitled? Here, I'll break it down for you. When you throw your dining hall dishes away in the trash, you are acting entitled. When you break campus equipment for fun, you are acting entitled. When you are patiently waiting for someone with their hands full to open a door for you, you are acting entitled. None of this is OK.

The amount of money you have does not make you untouchable or somehow above the rest of us. Now, I know some people may make this a race issue, and let me stop you all there. This is not a race issue. Why? Because there is a common misconception that it's only white students that have this sense of entitlement, but that's not true. This is a culture issue. Specifically, the culture of being privileged financially. Middlebury students: NO ONE OWES YOU ANYTHING. The staff here does not get paid by you. They don't work for you — plus, they're humans too.

If you can't find the time to learn the names of your custodial team, then you need to do better. Please stop reducing dining hall staff on social media to offensive, vague names, like "Proc lady" and "Ross lady." We have to do better, both online and in person. Did you know that many of the (dining, custodial and facilities) staff here have to work second jobs just to make a living? Of course not. Stop this sh**!

I realize that this is more of a rant than advice, but the topic is asking for it. If you are not outraged by what I am saying, then I don't know what else to say to you. We have to do better. I'm going to keep saying that. So make sure that you check your entitlement at the door — and, before you walk through that literal or metaphorical door, open it your damn self!

As always, I look forward to my readers submitting questions to my column. You can submit your own questions at the go link: go/asktre/. My goal is to produce one piece every week for the entire year, so keep the questions coming.

Love, Tre Stephens

Have opinions of your own you want to share? Send your op-eds, pitches or ideas along to eeberlee@middlebury.edu!

Dating ... with style

Hello, everyone, and welcome to cuffing season! As many of you have noticed, the frigid arctic has begun to descend upon us. As the temperatures drop, the number of couples sky-rocket. For those looking for alternate ways to get cuffed this year (especially coming into J-Term), might I suggest using this as a convenient time to act on your dissatisfaction with Middlebury's hook-up culture and asking someone out on — wait for it — a date? (You also do not need to be cuffed nor do you need to want to be cuffed to do so; friend dates are amazing too.)

At Middlebury, a lot of the time

sex panther

Sex Panther writes on all things sex, love and hookup-related at Middlebury.

we're scared that the person we are into is less into us than we are to them. Asking someone on a date is perceived as the opposite of playing it cool (you know, because it conveys that you are actually interested in the person in a more profound way than wanting to sleep with them occasionally). While everyone defines labels like dating slightly differently, I personally don't think you get to say you're dating someone unless you've been on a date. At the same time, going on a date doesn't mean you're in a relationship — it just means you want to get to know the person better in a setting which isn't dependent on you guys hooking up (no, "Netflix and chill" does not count).

That brings us to the dreaded "date." I feel like I say this all the time, but I am incredibly perplexed as to why more people don't go on dates here. Sure, I mean, I know we live in a small town, but come on — there are so many different, fun things to do for a date at Midd. So let's spice up cuffing season and add asking people on dates to the mix. As your trusty Sex Panther (someone who passionately dislikes hook up culture here) I'll even do some of the groundwork for you and review some local establishments for their date potential. This week, I'll be looking at Otter Creek Brewery.

If you are in need of a date location and activity that is removed from the prying eyes of Middlebury, you should consider Otter Creek Brewery. Don't worry, I have been to said brewery on two occasions now. Granted, on both occasions I was with friends, but I still feel qualified to review it for maximum date potential. The ambiance is fun and flirty. They have live music on Friday nights (which could honestly be a great distraction if your Panther of choice turns out to be a less-than-ideal love match). Their staff are friendly and helpful. You definitely don't need to be an avid beer drinker to go, because the staff will resourcefully guide you towards a beer you can enjoy without grimacing. You can order a flight (small samples of a few different beers, which screams "I'm adventurous ... but also indecisive") or a full-sized beer (which whispers, "I like commitment"). They have delicious nachos and wings (but maybe save the messy wings for the second date — unless you think you look cute with barbecue sauce on your cheeks). Their hot sauce is delicious, too, and everyone knows that hot sauce tolerance is directly correlated with fun potential.

Another awesome thing about Otter Creek is that their taproom has a huge window that overlooks

the floor where beers are canned! That way, if you run out of things to say, you can use the window to spark a lively conversation about supply and demand, or a cost-benefit analysis of capitalism (hot).

It is a little bit of a drive off-campus, but this affords you some welcome privacy and anonymity. Grabbing a beer is a great, low-stakes way to get to know someone and a great excuse to get off campus and be around people who aren't Middlebury college students. No longer are you confined to the artificial party makeout scene. In the event you go with the intention of getting drunk, though, you should arrange a DD.

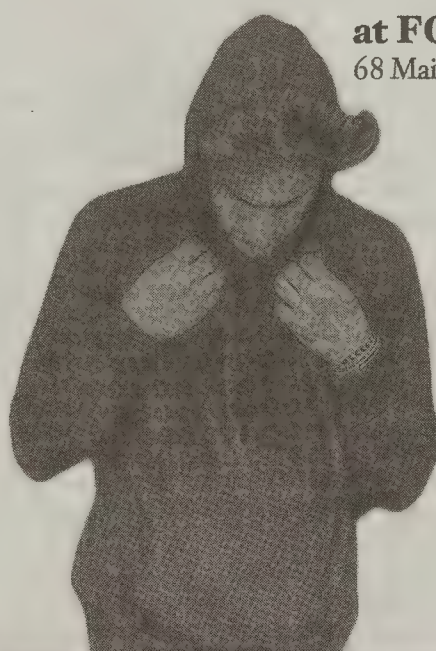
So, if you feel dissatisfied with how cuffing season is going for you, or how hook up culture here is performed, consider asking your crush out on a date. Good dates are like good I.P.As — they put a little hop in your step. Dates don't have to be scary or boring. In fact, they might even allow you to show your best self — you know, in a way that isn't always possible in an Atwater suite, where you drunkenly scream over the 2019 "Big Booty Remix." Otter Creek is just one of many options for a date location. Stay tuned for next week when I explore another one!



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Center for Community Engagement

Apply to be a College Access Mentor for High School Students at MUHS

Deadline: Sunday, Nov. 15 at 11:59 p.m.

MiddCAM is a one-on-one mentorship program that pairs Middlebury College student mentors with local high school juniors who are primarily first generation and/or low-income college applicants. Mentors guide their mentees through the college process by helping them coordinate standardized testing, come up with a college list, edit essays and personal statements and by providing information about the college experience. Mentors are provided with training and support by the group's administrators, the Center for Community Engagement and the Middlebury Union High School college counseling staff. We hope to share our experiences and offer support to the students in our local community during this uncertain and stressful time in their lives. Please note: Mentors must be available for one academic year (which means being on campus for spring, fall, and J-Term following being matched). If you are interested in applying, the MiddCAM mentor application go link is go/middcamapp2019. The go link will automatically direct you to a Google Doc. You are welcome to download the document as a Word document, fill that out electronically and send it to edickerson@middlebury.edu or cam@middlebury.edu. You may also print out the form and return it to the Center for Community Engagement. Contact cam@middlebury.edu with questions.

Design Your Midd Studio: Odyssey Planning

Date: Friday, Nov. 15 from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Location: CCE Living Room

What do you want to DO? What do you want to BE? What do you want to BECOME?

You are in your "Odyssey Years" – these important years are when you discover who you are going to be as an emerging adult. This studio workshop will teach you to how to create and explore your own alternate futures! We'll teach you how to think like a designer and build a life you love AT and AFTER Middlebury. In this studio, you'll:

- Create thoughtful visions of your future
- Share your visions with classmates
- Imagine how to create prototypes of your ideas
- Get feedback that helps you further clarify your plan(s)

Join the Experiential Learning Center's collaborative studio based on the widely popular Stanford Life Design Lab.

Apply to MiddCORE Summer Session

Deadline: Sunday, Nov. 17 at 11:59 p.m.

We do this experientially. There's no textbook that's going to teach you how to solve the problems you'll be solving. Instead we are bringing in the top professionals from a host of industries to work with you hands on. It's what makes this program a launchpad for a life of impact. Join us in Monterey, California for our Summer Immersion program. May 30-June 27, 2020. Applications are open now. Round 1 application due November 17 (save \$500 when you apply by this date). For more information about the application process, visit the site. Apply at go/middcore be redirected to this Middlebury log-in page.

Donate and/or Volunteer for the HOPE Holiday Shop

Date: Various

Each year HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects) hosts a holiday shop that helps families who could not otherwise purchase new gifts provide something special for their children for Christmas. At the shop, families pick out an outfit, two toys, art supplies, and two books for each child. In 2018, the Holiday Shop helped nearly 600 Addison County children have a happier holiday. Sign up here, either individually or with others, to bring in a gift (\$25 value, suggestions provided in the sign-up form). Then, bring your unwrapped gifts to the Center for Community Engagement (20 Old Chapel Road - the DKE House next to Axinn) Monday-Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by Tuesday, December 10th. Be sure to sign in when delivering your gifts so we know who has delivered gifts and their estimated value. Contact Ellie Dickerson at edickerson@middlebury.edu with questions. Volunteer opportunities include:

- **Saturday, Nov. 16-Friday, Nov. 22:** Help decorating the shop for as much or as little time as you can.

- **Monday, December 2nd-Tuesday, December 24th:** Make your own holiday more special by helping others to "shop" for their children. Shifts are two-hours long: 9:00-11:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or 1:00-3:00 p.m. with 2 people per shift—sign up with a friend! Students interested in volunteering can sign up for shifts by contacting Kate Selby at kselby@hope-vt.org or call (802) 388-3608.

Volunteer with the Pushback Program to Help People with Parkinson's Disease

Date: Tuesdays at the Middlebury Recreational Department and Thursdays at Eastview from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Pushback is a supported exercise program for people with Parkinson's Disease. People with PD need extra support for meaningful exercise and when they get it, they are super grateful, feel better, move better and have a better quality of life. Volunteer exercise partners are essential to Pushback! As a volunteer, you will help provide 1:1 support to players, offer encouragement and aid coaches throughout the class. It only takes a little bit of training to become a partner and it is super beneficial to both participants and volunteers. Classes are held at the Middlebury Recreational Department (154 Creek Rd) on Tuesdays and at Eastview (100 Eastview Terrace) on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. for an hour. It is great exposure for students in the health sciences and psychology fields. For more information please contact Molly Tobin at mtobin.smcvt@gmail.com.

Center for Careers and Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Library Data Application Developer Intern

Location: Middlebury College

Term: Winter (on-campus internship)

Deadline: Nov. 15

The Library Data Services intern will collaborate with librarians to develop a web application using R and Shiny that will allow campus constituents to explore data that measures how Middlebury faculty, students and staff view library and computing services. An interest in open source development and a desire to contribute to assessment technology at higher-ed institutions are important. In addition to working with librarians to understand the data, clean it and develop the Shiny web application, there will be opportunities to further explore the information science profession, including shadowing and interacting with Research & Instruction librarians and other library staff.

PIMCO

Location: New York, N.Y., Austin, Texas and Newport Beach, Calif.

Term: Summer

Deadline: Nov. 17 (rolling)

PIMCO is a premier fixed income investment manager with thousands of professionals around the world united in a single purpose: creating opportunities for clients in every environment. This program will allow you to explore different career paths within the investment management industry and understand the ways to manage risk and deliver returns. The PIMCO Fundamentals training program will provide you with the skills, knowledge and relationships for success. Your informal training will continue throughout the summer – everyday, in a perpetual learning environment. In addition, you will be teamed with a seasoned professional who offers guidance and mentorship.

Pandora

Location: Oakland, California, or Atlanta, Ga.

Term: Summer

Deadline: Nov. 29

In this role, you'll be working as part of the SiriusXM + Pandora Insights & Analytics team to uncover motivations and preferences that drive users' behaviors when it comes to audio listening and using streaming services. They're looking for someone passionate about using insights to help drive design decisions in product and advertising experiences and interested in music and audio content.

Seacoast Dermatology

Location: Portsmouth, N.H.

Term: Full-time job, 2 years

Deadline: Nov. 29

Become certified as a dermatology clinical assistant and work with several well-known, personable and experienced dermatologists and advanced practitioners. You will learn all aspects of patient care and become a key member of the provider's day-to-day team. This includes scheduling, scribing, managing clinic flow, assisting with dermatology procedures, counseling patients and patient follow-up, assisting with literature research, writing and clinical photography. There may also be an opportunity assist in surgery.

CLIMB: Colorado Leaders in Mentoring and Business

Location: Denver, C.O.

Term: Summer

Deadline: January 2020 (varies)

CLIMB is a 10-week undergraduate summer internship program in Denver, Colorado, one of the most exciting cities in the U.S. for young people. Designed exclusively for Middlebury, Yale, Denison, Northwestern, Wesleyan, Harvard, MIT and Stanford students, CLIMB has identified paid, meaningful internships with employers across all industries and non-profit organizations. It includes housing, an alumni mentor and organized social activities to meet other interns. A few sites are available now in Handshake, and more will be coming soon.

Adobe Systems

Location: Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, San Jose

Term: Summer

Deadline: Jan. 10

We're looking for goal-oriented people who thrive in a fast-paced team environment and are eager to apply their problem-solving skills to real business challenges. Our consulting summer interns will each tackle at least one special project related to the development and operation of a consulting business. These could include efforts like tracking & measuring the success of our consulting programs, identifying and organizing thought leadership and customer case studies, research and development of a new go-to-market or consulting delivery approach, supporting the operations of Adobe's North America Consulting team or another similar project.

Marketing and Advertising Education at ANA Educational Foundation

Location: Various

Term: Summer Internship (Paid)

Deadline: Jan. 10

MADE is an internship program for undergraduate students interested in the marketing and advertising industry. Founded by the ANA Educational Foundation, MADE places you at one of over 50 marketing/advertising/media companies including L'Oreal, NBC Universal, IBM, McCann, BBDO, Viacom and Ogilvy. Positioned as the "common app" for advertising/marketing internships, this paid program is designed to provide the skills, mentors and training that will help you thrive in the industry. Apply in Handshake!

Faraday, Inc.

Location: Burlington, Vt.

Term: Full-time job

Deadline: Rolling

Interested in Energy, fintech, brand innovators and big data? Middlebury alumni and founder of Faraday wants you to apply to their Sales Development Representative position to help them to find new clients. Faraday uses AI, a "predictive" approach to targeting the right customers and leveraging geospatial analytics to predict the right markets, all in the name of helping business-to-consumer (B2C) relationships grow. The sales development rep will be a strongly self-motivated and driven individual who is goal-oriented, eager to learn, methodical and tenacious, and can effectively interact with a team. Perfect for a Feb Grad!

“BLCKGRLMGC” at Middlebury

By RAIN JI
Layout Editor



COURTESY PHOTO/DESTINI ARMSTRONG

Armstrong and Job began the podcast when they were first-years.

“Hey guys, my name is Destini.”
“And my name is Megan.”

“And we are two black girls, at a predominantly white institution; trying to survive, at a predominantly white institution; and here’s the latest tea, at a predominantly white institution.”

This is how each and every episode of BLCKGRLMGC, a podcast started by Destini Armstrong ’21 and Megan Job ’21, begins. The podcast has a light-hearted tone, often filled with laughter and relatable commentary from Job and Armstrong. Alienation, inclusivity and sense of belonging — issues common to women of color at a predominately white institution (PWI) like Middlebury — are among the important themes of the podcast.

The two hosts started the podcast two years ago, during the spring of their first year on campus. Both hail from New York City, making the

transition to rural, predominantly white Middlebury a uniquely challenging experience.

The podcast originated from an idea that Job’s friend had, and eventually the two decided to use podcasts as a platform to tell their stories at the college. Job believed that the value of the podcast lies in using storytelling to show the potential challenges that students of color face at a PWI. “What does it come down to? I want to talk about those tiny things that people don’t mention, such as how intimidating a group project may be and how it makes you feel so small.” Armstrong shared a similar sentiment in an interview. “I think it’s nice to know that we can put something out there that can help other people because we have heard that a lot of people are relating, that is all we want to do.” Job was glad that people find their podcast helpful. “Giving comfort to other women of color in similar situations is such a good feeling,” she said.

Armstrong and Job pick their topic through a variety of means. Sometimes topics arise from the hosts’ personal experiences. “Megan might come back and be like, ‘oh my god this made me so frustrated [and] I can’t accept it,’” Armstrong said. Other times they hope to use the platform to address underclassmen specifically because they may need more advice and help to feel more at ease on campus.

The majority of the podcast’s audience is Middlebury students, including people who are abroad. Other listeners include Armstrong and Job’s friends from home. Armstrong initially presumed that there are more people of color listening because the themes seemed more immediately relevant. She added,

however, that “a lot of white students come up to us and they’re like ‘we listened to your podcast, it’s such an eye-opener.’” Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric Hector Vila sometimes suggests topics, and many others also pitch topics to Armstrong and Job directly.

They are open to anything as long as the topic is related to the general theme of their podcast. Some of the interesting topics the podcast has covered include interracial dating culture on campus (“Episode



COURTESY/ APPLE
Since their first year, they have produced over 37 podcasts.

5 — White is Right?”), how professors teaching to the majority of classroom leaves students from underprivileged high schools at disadvantages (“Episode 25 — Mind The Gap”) and struggles with natural hair (“Episode 12 — Hair’s the Latest Scoop”).

Their hard work has garnered much recognition. After two years, they have produced 38 episodes, and on Apple Podcast, 71 ratings give them 5/5. Further, in April 2019, Armstrong and Job were awarded The Angels Award, which honors a sophomore woman of color who demonstrates leadership, scholarship and activism. To both, it

was a recognition of their excellent podcast project. “It was exciting and humbling to know that people actually listen. We went in not knowing who is going to listen but people can actually relate which we found awesome,” Armstrong said.

The production process of the podcast has changed very little over the course of the past two years. When they first started, Armstrong and Job recorded every episode with GarageBand in either person’s room and took turns editing the recording. Armstrong is currently in a class about podcasting and is learning about new methods and techniques that could improve the quality of the podcast. “But it’s always been just talking into a laptop or mic and see what comes out of that,” she said.

The breadth and depth of the podcast has developed. Topics grew to cover more diverse narratives by including the voices of individuals of different races and genders, and the tone, though still passionate, comes with more sangfroid, and demonstrates their composure under circumstances and topics that can often be emotionally trying. “When you first come to college you have this idea of what college is. You are very much hopeful that you’re going to be part of that imagination. And then it became clear that we weren’t. It was very hard to transition out of that mentality,” Armstrong said when asked about the reason behind this shift in tone.

Indeed, underneath the surface of jokes and anecdotes in the first few episodes there was embedded frustration. “When we first made it in spring of freshman year, we hated it here,” Armstrong continued, “But as semesters go on, you begin to adapt to the environment and you become more accepting. As I got

older, I’m handling a lot better. Acceptance gets stronger.”

As the podcast went on, the hosts took a step back to look at the bigger picture, and invited their friends to speak about their experiences. While the show is still centered on the experiences of women of color, it expanded its discussion of the themes encountered in these experiences by including a wider variety of perspectives. Specifically, they invited their white friend who transferred from Dartmouth to Columbia because of the unbearable frat culture at the former to tell her story, which raised the important question of the true meaning of fitting in (“Episode 30 — It’s Not Just Us”). “Once you realize that this is just a foundation you have and you can do so much more [beyond college], you start to really develop,” Armstrong said.

This year, as Job is studying abroad in Brazil, the traditional dynamic of the production is challenged for the first time. When asked about the future of the podcast, Armstrong and Job seemed unsure. “I think it’s definitely one step at a time,” Armstrong said, “like Meg being abroad was definitely a transition, and I will be studying abroad in China in the spring, so we don’t really know the bigger picture yet.” However, they are open to leaving the podcast to the college as a platform for people to utilize and develop upon.

“I definitely have anxiety so I can’t look at the future like that,” Job said. “But I feel like Destini and I are becoming older and we are getting more and more preoccupied with our careers. I definitely would love to keep it going, because it’s a journey that is very important.”

On Vinyl: “Jesus Is King”

By OWEN MARSH
Opinions Editor

“The devil had my soul, I can’t lie,” proclaims Kanye West in “On God,” the fifth track of his long-awaited ninth studio LP, “Jesus Is King.” It is this acknowledgement of past mistakes and creative follies that underscores the thesis of West’s most recent work, the realization of his salvation as a Christian, an international superstar and a human being, just like the rest of us.

No stranger to experimentation with genres other than his native hip-hop, Kanye explores the themes, harmonies, instrumentation and lyricism of gospel music in “Jesus Is King,” taking multiple musical and lyrical risks in the meantime, albeit with mixed results. For everyone from diehard Kanye stans to those disenfranchised by his problematic outbursts (and, shall we say, political alignments), the release of this album served as a chance for Kanye to rectify his recent disappointments and serve as a reminder of his everlasting standing in the canon of modern musical greats. On some accounts, “Jesus Is King” achieves these objectives. On others,

it falls short.

The album opens with “Every Hour,” the most traditional gospel song on the record, one that includes no vocals from Kanye himself. West’s Sunday Service choir provides a bright, uplifting entrance, quickly followed by a simple, yet percussive piano providing accent to the already-piercing vocals. The canon-like choral arrangement is impressive and gives for the entirety of the track, yet ends up standing in stark, even off-putting, juxtaposition to the second track, “Selah.” The transition between the two comes off as abrupt and confusing, a trend that continues as the record progresses. “Selah” enters with an ominous organ, almost reminding the listener of the darker side of church music and of Kanye’s spirituality itself.

Here, in Yeezus-like fashion, Kanye expresses his frustration with stardom, professing “I ain’t mean, I just focused.” The song builds with heroic splendor, as the gospel choir enters with a Hallelujah chorus that falls nothing short of epic.

“Follow God,” the third, and arguably most digestible, track on

the record follows, opening with a sample of Whole Truth’s 1969 “Can You Lose By Following God,” specifically on the lyric “Father, I stretch my hands to you,” an allusion to West’s 2016 mega-hit, “Father, Stretch My



COURTESY PHOTO/GOOD

Hands.” “Follow God” is a minute and a half of rhythmic excellence with few shortcomings other than its short length and lack of tonal evolution, not unlike many other tracks on the album. Other highlights of “Jesus Is King” include “Everything We Need,” a tour de force of harmonic production, and

“Use This Gospel,” an unorthodox yet tantalizing construction of one of Kanye’s catchiest hooks, a mesmerizing Kenny G saxophone solo and the first Clipse reunion in ten years.

As “Jesus Is King” progresses, Kanye continues to incorporate elements of his past records in the production and lyrical construction of his new release. One can hear the pitched-up soul of “The College Dropout,” the resplendent orchestration of “Late Registration,” the popified techno-inspired synths of “Graduation,” the auto-tuned melancholic outbursts of “808’s and Heartbreak,” the deep, spiritual introspection of “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” the rashness of “Yeezus,” the gospel of “The Life of Pablo” and the direct, seemingly unfinished nature of “ye.” It’s all there. In fact, these incorporations might be the most impressive aspect of “Jesus Is King,” as Kanye quite successfully builds on virtually every element of his impressive discography while simultaneously taking his music in a completely different direction. Very few artists can make that claim.

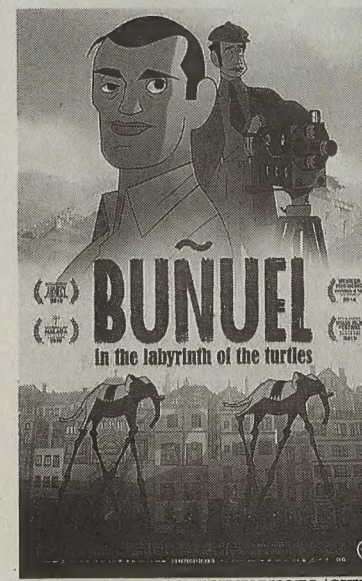
However, “Jesus Is King,” like virtually every Kanye project, is not without glaring flaws, the most significant of which lies in the song order. Although the album stunningly provides the listener with a fully-fledged, ever-interesting spiritual journey over the course of only 27 minutes, the majority of transitions from song to song come off as precipitous and inconsistent.

The final track, “Jesus Is Lord,” arguably the most impressive song

on the album, is a masterpiece of orchestration, but one that leaves the listener begging for more. Why Kanye chose “Jesus Is Lord” to finish the album, and not open it, is confounding. Furthermore, just like his past few releases, “Jesus Is King” appears to be drastically unfinished, riddled with flagrant errors of rhythmic execution, muddled production and painfully cheesy lyrics. Kanye’s attempts at conveying his spirituality to a broader audience falls short due to his insistence on associating his faith in Jesus Christ with the collective “we,” a choice that is sure to alienate his non-Christian listeners.

Kanye’s perplexing and often exasperating antics over the past year have rendered him as an artist virtually drowning in a sea of public scrutiny, just as he was ten years ago, upon his drunken interruption of Taylor Swift’s acceptance speech at the MTV Video Music Awards. In response to that scandal, West dropped “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” an album considered by most to be his magnum opus. “Jesus Is King” is emphatically not that album nor that attempt at redemption, as it falls victim to many of the inconsistencies that have plagued Kanye, both musically and personally, over the past few years. However, while it lacks the meticulous construction of his best works, “Jesus Is King” is filled with moments that remind us of the musical excellence that have escalated Kanye to the status he remains in today, arguably the most successful artist of the current century, and it is in those very moments where my gratitude lies.

Reel Critic: “Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles”



COURTESY PHOTO/GKIDS

By NINANG
Contributing Writer

Tackling the tumultuous life of controversial cinematic pioneer Luis Buñuel, the animated film “Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles” brought a pensive side to the Hirschfield Film Series on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Director Salvador Simó Busom crafts a narrative around Buñuel filming his documentary, “Las

Hurdes: Land without Bread.” In the aftermath of his fall from grace with L’Age d’Or ushering in considerable scandal, Buñuel is left with a slough of insecurities interspersed with doubts about his split from former colleague, surrealist artist Salvador Dalí. The opportunity for filming comes as a surprise when Ramón Acín, fellow artist and friend, wins a lottery and decides to invest in Buñuel’s dramatized documentary expounding on the poverty and barren state of Las Hurdes, a remote town located up in the mountains of Spain.

Busom renders the physical journey and creative process in hues of yellow and purple. Riddled with isolated guitar, piano and accordion chords to bring dimension to the film, Buñuel in the Labyrinth of the Turtles is eerily atmospheric. In its essence, it strangely captures the surrealist world as we see an exaggerated take on the frustrations Buñuel undergoes. The gorgeous color palette highlights every warm sunset and melancholic rainstorm as the crew trek through the shell-studded cliffside and explore the depths of destitution.

The film’s stunning palette and simple, flattened animation capture

the abstraction and surrealism behind Buñuel’s process, but the emphasis proves to be a double-edged sword. On one hand, it fully reflects the deliberation behind capturing Buñuel’s underlying vulnerability through dreams, particularly in the scenes that dive into his psyche. Busom doesn’t shy away from incorporating provocative scenes displaying murder or vulnerability and, in that, builds towards a complex sketch of Buñuel. The film opens up with a flashback as a young Buñuel fears disappointing his father and tiptoes around him, granting audiences a tender rendering of his childhood isolation.

With the emphasis on capturing Buñuel’s surreal blend of thoughts and emotions interspersed with each other, the film grows rather difficult to understand and leaves room for questions. To this effect, watching Buñuel may prove to be rather frustrating in its purposeful ambiguity. Especially when portraying an artist of his nature, Luis Buñuel isn’t the easiest, most predictable subject. The push for authenticity is refreshing, however — and, in that, linear storytelling is compromised for beauty and depth. Buñuel is a film that requires you to care about

the artist: not just what he creates, but why he does it all.

To his credit, Busom ultimately lightens the heavy introspection by dispersing humor throughout the film. Additionally, the film’s show-stopping cinematography lightens its weighty subject matter. Viewers are almost tempted to forget about undercurrents of political and emotional grief as they take in the beauty of every frame. The film deftly incorporates elements of the documentary as well, seamlessly blending in snapshots of the past and present to draw viewers directly in.

Dramatization through Luis’ eyes shows through almost inceptively — take animal murder, for example. In the transition, humor first comes through as characters poke at one another, refusing to murder a rooster on a string. The vendor unintentionally jests as well — “Which one?” he asks, in response to being offered payment to kill “it,” direct-

ing his query to the people rather than the animal. Right as the audience almost forgets the presence of death in the lighthearted jest, however, the film fuses into black and white, plunging us dramatically in a transition to violently emphasized slaughter.

It is not easy to capture the complexities underlying severed relationships between oneself and others. Frankly, an hour and a half is far too short to do so, especially when dealing with subject matter of unresolved trauma and self-doubt. There will undoubtedly be questions unanswered, emotional volatility felt and an overarching cloud of frustration left behind as viewers, previously immersed in Buñuel’s world just a minute ago, are left to comprehend. Nevertheless, the exposition of emotion and suffering is a commendable effort and the film is thoughtful in its unapologetic curiosity.

ROCKET '14 MOVES TO "LOVE TOWN" IN A TESLA

By APRIL QIAN

Senior Arts & Academics Editor

YouTube has long been known as a platform for user-created video content. Nearly 15 years after the website launched, a recent survey by toymaker Lego found that one-third of kids between 8 and 12 aspire to be either a vlogger or a YouTuber. I'm fairly certain this desire to be seen and heard isn't just limited to kids. We all have that one friend from high school who started their own food blogging or make-up channel, and let's be honest — who doesn't secretly want to be a YouTube star?

For Rocket '14, one of the two co-owners of the freshly minted YouTube channel "Love Town," storytelling (or more appropriately, outing details of his personal life) is nothing new.

In 2012, he gave a speech as the first student speaker at TEDxMiddlebury on his summer traveling the country using the Amtrak system, and later spoke at Moth-Up, Middlebury's version of the nationwide storytelling platform The Moth, on the same subject.

In 2013, he started a column in The Campus called "Dining, Dating, and Dashing," whose content is exactly what it sounds like. The biweekly column's goals were threefold: Rocket dated, ate free food and chronicled his experiences and musings for all to see in the pages of the paper. Each article chronicles a date with a different person at a different restaurant in the Middlebury area, which he persuaded in advance to provide free meals for him and his date. It seems like a pretty sweet deal, especially if you're looking at it from Rocket's perspective. As he writes in the inaugural article, "I get a date, the girl gets a story, we both get fed, the restaurant gets public-

ity and hopefully we all get a good laugh."

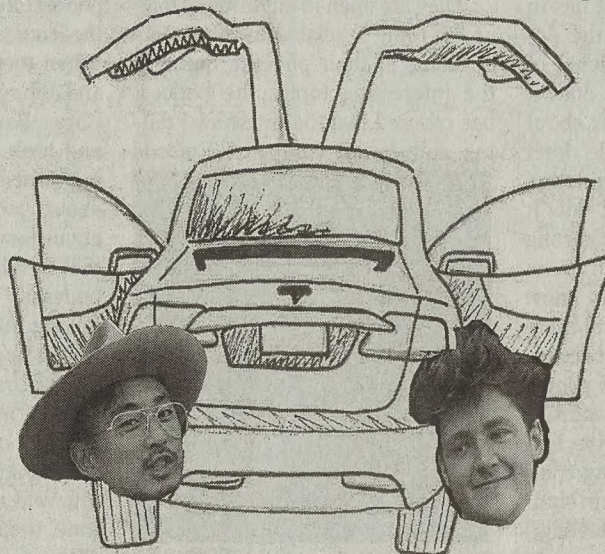
A little over a year after graduating, in October of 2015, he changed his name legally from Ryan Kim to "Rocket, no last name."

"It just popped into my head," said the 27-year-old self-described conceptual artist. What started out as something of "a secret stage name" eventually became a part of his identity. "If we as adults are required to take responsibility or ownership of all of our actions, then it is my right to own the actor," he said. We choose the clothes we wear, the food we eat, with whom we spend our time, Rocket pondered — so why can't we choose our own name? Legally changing his name to Rocket, then, seemed to be both a statement of his identity and an assertion of his autonomy.

Three weeks ago, "Love Town" released its first video, titled "Welcome to Love Town!" In the video, Rocket, sporting all black clothing, a slightly overgrown mohawk and gold-rimmed lens-less aviator glasses, introduces himself and the channel's co-owner and producer Marshall Hodge, who he identified as "my adopted brother." They sit side-by-side, arms wrapped around each other's shoulders in front of a gorgeous mountain range speckled with autumnal patches of green and

orange. Right behind them is their black Tesla Model X, parked on the lawn with its wings up, batmobile-style.

"We're living in Rex, this Tesla behind us," Rocket said, "just out on the road, adventuring and just figuring things out as we go." According to the channel's description, the two are "on a journey of discovering



SARAH FAGAN & APRIL QIAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

the most authentic, dopest version of ourselves and overcoming any obstacles along the way: personal fears, expectations from others, cultural norms, etc."

Bringing his background as an Economics major to the table, Rocket did some number-crunching to explain the rationale behind this recent lifestyle change. Previously, he had been commuting into Los Angeles and paying over \$500 per month in gas, in addition to rent, utilities and other living expenses that plague the electronic checkbooks of many a working millennial. When he analyzed the costs of living in a car, monthly payments on a Tesla turned out to be cheaper than

what he had been paying in rent and gas. "Well," he said, "if I'm willing to live in a vehicle, I could have a pretty sweet vehicle to live in." It actually seems quite practical, once you can get behind the idea of living in a sedan.

From a more conceptual standpoint, "Love Town" for Rocket is also a personal project that grew out of his "rabid curiosity" about the full range of human existence and experience. Love Town is a metaphorical place, according to Rocket. "Coming from Love Town means I want to live a life in pursuit of love," he said. "And it's not a romantic or sexual love; it's a love to live."

His goal is "not to be celebrities or heroes," as he said in an interview, nor is it to be an influencer, a term he rejects because of its reputation as a provider of simple entertainment. "Entertainment is cheap," he said, "and it can go anywhere."

Rather, he's exploring what he calls "radical candor," an effort at authenticity in a world of perceived fewer human connections. This is all part of his path to becoming a "real and dope person." What is a "real and dope person," you ask? According to Rocket, "a real person listens to the song of their soul" and "goes the distance for people they care about."

For Hodge, who serves the roles of content producer, video editor

and (adopted) younger brother, "Love Town" is about "pushing past this bitch named fear." Before joining "Love Town," Hodge was a video editor at Yes Theory, an adventure-travel YouTube channel that makes videos like "Asking Strangers to go Skydiving on the Spot!!" and "SAYING YES TO EVERYTHING FOR 24 HOURS" (ended up in a dress in Mexico). He admits that, even in a Tesla, life on the road can take some getting used to. "The shower part's a little tricky sometimes," he said in a video. "We can go a few days, sometimes a week before showering; it's a tradeoff of this lifestyle, honestly; like if you wanted to have another lifestyle where you could shower everyday you'd have to get an apartment or something."

The channel's only three weeks old, but has already amassed a following of 16.2K subscribers at the time of this article, with videos that range from 10K to 283K views. In a video released last week, titled "I Lost My Virginity in a Tesla," Marshall documents his first sexual encounter ("everything but the sex") with a woman Rocket had matched with on Tinder. Another video recounts their 7000-mile road trip from California through Vermont and back and in a third viewers are invited to follow along Marshall's "First Date Ever."

Internet fame aside, however, "we don't want to place any of our personal value on what this view count is or what this subscribe count is, 'cause it doesn't fundamentally affect any of our inherent worthiness," Rocket said. "The only thing we can do is to be as real of a person and as dope of a person as you can. That's it."

Here's to becoming "real and dope" people.

So about that wall outside Atwater...

By SOPHIE HILAND

Contributing Writer

This November marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Wall, which separated East Germany and West Germany, stood for 28 years and served as a divider between the two countries both ideologically and physically, separating families and friends who once called the same country home. On Nov. 9, 1989, citizens took it upon themselves, hammers in hand, to demolish the barrier that had separated them from their family and friends on the other side.

The German Department, with the assistance from the German House as well as many other Lan-

Liz Sheedy '22 and Ryan Kirby '22 participated in the building of the wall. While the group was working to build something that would be torn down after just a week, the process was nonetheless a team building experience. The replica was constructed primarily of wood and drywall and was thus a challenge to carry from the German House, which is located next to Shafer's Deli, to Atwater Dining Hall.

"Building the wall was such an intimate time together even though we were building something that is otherwise, especially historically, so much of a barrier," Sheedy said.

Throughout the course of the week, students heeded the in-

engage with it more. However, students still got involved with the project, through graffiti, as well as through daily speeches which were given in front of the installation, both by individuals, and representatives of both the College Democrats and College Republicans Clubs. These speeches worked to contextualize the project, as well as to reflect more deeply on the significance of the fall of the Wall and its enduring impact worldwide.

The idea for the project originated from the German Embassy eleven years ago to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Mauerfall. In order to commemorate this anniversary, it was important for the organizers to host a party

involved with the project invited the college community to this celebration, which was complete with food, a photobooth, drinks and music. Like West Germans in 1989, they took hammers and chisels to the Wall, slowly whitening the wall down until just beams stood along the border.

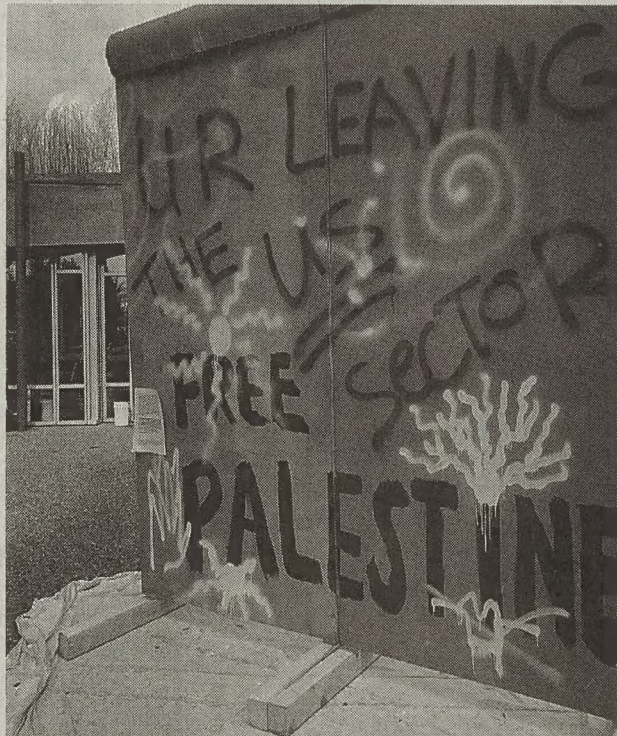
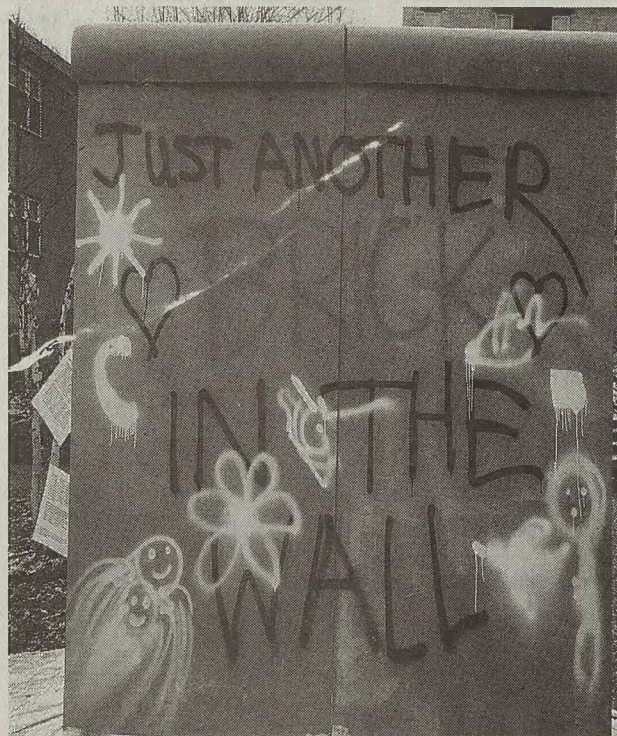
Matthias recalls a particularly vivid memory of this process, "for months, you could hear, day and night, the sound of metal on concrete as people chiseled away at the Wall, keeping pieces of it for themselves," she said.

Matthias holds the fall of the Berlin Wall as one of the most memorable events in her life. Just as many Americans can tell you exactly where they were when

joyful things in their entire lives," Matthias said. While the end of the war restored some semblance of peace to Germany, the period following it was one of great change, of intense rebuilding as a country and in many ways the birth of a whole new world.

"Today, Berlin is such an epicenter in terms of democratization and industrialization and a lot of people think that it's a great representation of what we are trying to be," Kirby said. "It's insane to think that just 30 years ago, just 10 years before a lot of us were born, the city was walled."

On the same subject, Sheedy added, "Walls, like the Berlin Wall, not only block the movement of people but also the ability



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



COURTESY PHOTO/INSTAGRAM

guage Departments, commemorated the momentous event in history this past week. Outside of Atwater Dining Hall, students of the German Department, residents of the German House and a handful of faculty members worked to construct a replica of the wall which stood for the entirety of last week. Ten years ago, a similar replica of the wall stood outside of Proctor Dining Hall.

structions posted on the wall by painting graffiti on it — the first of which to appear were the words "free palestine" — just as West Germans did along the wall throughout its existence.

The wall was not as covered in graffiti this year as it had been 10 years ago, perhaps due to the fact that the previous replica had been directly blocking entry into Proctor, thus forcing students to

during which students and faculty could tear down the wall in similarly joyous ways in which they did 30 years ago.

"The building of the Wall and the tearing down of it, they go together," said Bettina Matthias, Maurice C. Greenberg Professor of Language & Linguistics, who grew up outside of Berlin in then West Germany.

On Saturday night, those in-

they heard the news of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, most Germans can tell you exactly where they were when the border between the two countries was opened and the chipping away at the Wall began.

For her parents, who had lived through Hitler's rise to power, had fled Germany during World War II, and who then saw the building of the Wall, its collapse was "one of the most surreal and

to learn or to understand, open our minds to things we refuse to think about or to broach."

The "free palestine" motif was spray painted on the installation within hours of it being put up, challenging viewers to ponder the ways in which we can prevent history from repeating itself.

"There are still plenty of 'Berlin Walls' that still exist," Sheedy said.

DON'T MISS THIS

Waves

Waves traces the epic emotional journey of members of a suburban African-American family — led by a well-intentioned but domineering father — as they navigate love, forgiveness and coming together in the aftermath of a loss. From acclaimed director Trey Edward Shults, Waves is a heartrending story about the universal capacity for compassion and growth even in the darkest of times.

Saturday 11/16, 3 & 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

Ashley & Friends

Middlebury College Junior Ashley Wang performs solo works by Couperin, Debussy, and Schubert in her student cello recital. Joined by fellow cellists and soprano Eleanor Mayerfield '19.5, the afternoon will end with a chamber piece by Villa-Lobos. Free

Sunday 11/17, 4 p.m. Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

One Flea Spare

London, 1665: the plague year. Mr. Snelgrave and his wife remain under quarantine inside their home. When a mysterious sailor and a young girl sneak into their house, social norms begin to crumble. Unrelentingly poetic and fiercely humorous, this Obie award-winning play by Naomi Wallace asks, who is master and who is servant? Directed by Claudio Medeiros '90. Tickets: \$15/12/8/6

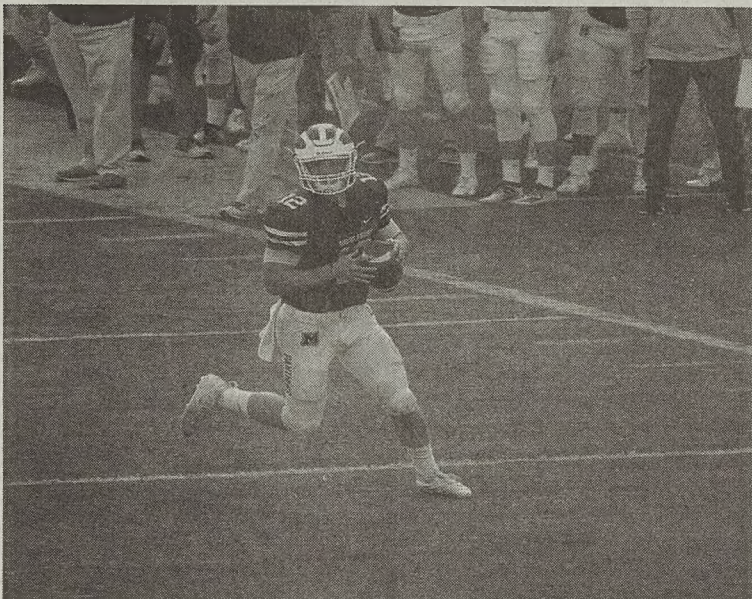
Thursday-Saturday 11/21-23, 7:30 p.m., Wright Theatre



NESCAC CHAMPS



UNDEFEATED FOOTBALL MAKES HISTORY, WINS 'CAC CROWN



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By LAUREN BOYD
Sports Writer

The Middlebury football team made history this past weekend, becoming the first NESCAC team to go 9-0 during conference play. With this historic achievement, the Panthers also secured a solo NESCAC title after defeating Tufts 31-24 on Saturday, Nov. 9.

The Panthers started off their final game of the season with a 7-0 lead, as QB **Will Jernigan '21** drove the ball into the end-zone. Their lead didn't last long, as Tufts was able to respond quickly, tying up the game by the end of the first quarter.

Maxim Bochman '20 and **Jernigan** led Middlebury down the field on the next drive, culminating in a touchdown pass between the two Panthers. Up 14-7 for some time, the Panthers capitalized on two interceptions (**Finn Muldoon '23** and **Kevin Hartley**

'20) with a **Carter Massengill '20** field goal. Going into the half, Middlebury topped the Jumbos 17-7.

Returning from halftime, the Panthers were calm and collected, which propelled them throughout the rest of the game. **Jernigan** and **Bochman** put the next touchdown on the board, with another touchdown pass for the score. The Jumbos answered with a touchdown of their own, but couldn't defend a response from the Panthers. Middlebury upped the score to 31-14 with a touchdown run from RB **Alex Maldjian '23**.

Although Tufts was able to score another 10 points, the contest ended with a Panther win and NESCAC title. Family, friends, alumni and fans made the trek to Tufts to watch the historic event, as the Panthers acquired their fourth overall NESCAC title and first solo title since 2007.

FIELD HOCKEY WINS THIRD STRAIGHT NESCAC TITLE



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Field hockey snatched the NESCAC title in an overtime thriller against Tufts on Sunday, Nov. 10. The victory marked the Panthers' third-straight conference championship and illustrated Coach DeLorenzo's hugely successful run in the past several years. Since the 2017 season, field hockey has accumulated a 58-4 record and earned two national championships. The team seeks to pick up its third-straight national championship once it embarks upon the NCAA tournament. The Panthers' first matchup will be against the winner of Babson/St. Joseph's (Maine) on Saturday, Nov. 13

at 11:00 a.m. and will be played at Kohn Field.

Last Sunday's close battle saw no team scoring in the first quarter. The Panthers eventually struck first one minute into the second quarter, thanks to a goal by **Emma Johns '20** and an assist by **Erin Nicholas '21**. Momentum quickly swung in Tufts' favor, however, once they tallied two unanswered goals in the second and third quarters. Middlebury then managed to tie the game with eight minutes left in regulation with a goal by **Katie George '23**. The match headed to overtime and captain **Marissa Baker '20** buried a rebound shot into the opposing net with four seconds left in overtime. **Ali Denby '20** was awarded

NESCAC Player of the Week for her grit on defense.

"We played with a lot of heart and energy [on Sunday]," **Nicholas** said, when asked about what contributed to their championship victory. "Everyone was determined to win and this was demonstrated both on the field and on the sidelines."

More work, however, still lies ahead for the Panthers.

"To prepare for regionals we want to build off of the momentum from the Tufts game," **Nicholas** said. "We learned a lot about our strengths and weaknesses as a team and we want to use these lessons to help guide our practices in the following weeks."

MEN'S SOCCER EDGED IN NESCAC CHAMPIONSHIP, WILL ENTER NCAA TOURNAMENT

By ERIK ARVIDSSON
Sports Writer

Heading into the postseason with just two regular season losses, the men's soccer team believed that they'd be difficult to eliminate. Their play backed up their confidence; in the NESCAC semifinals, they took down Amherst, the first-ranked team in the country. The following day, Middlebury faced defending national champion Tufts for a shot at the NESCAC title. Tufts would score a heart-breaking last minute goal to prevail over the Panthers, 2-1.

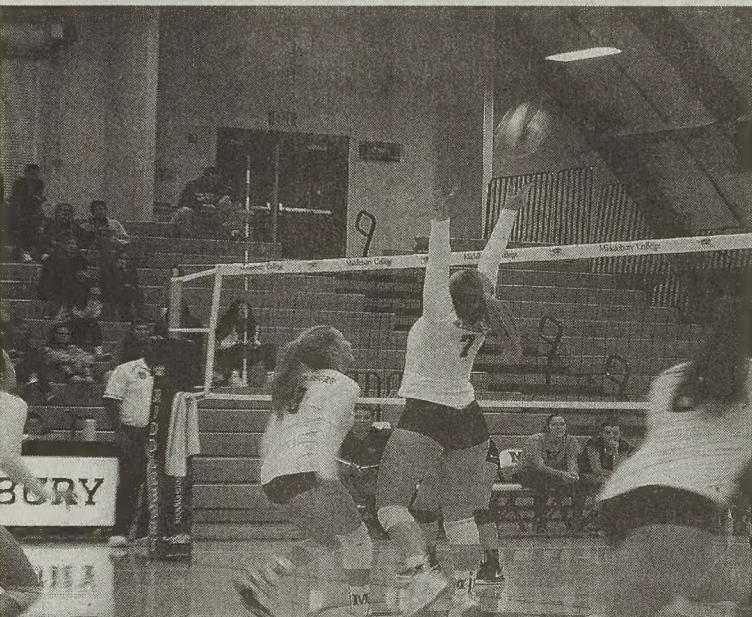
Despite the disappointing loss, the Panthers learned that their season would be extended when they received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament. On Saturday, Nov. 16, the Panthers will travel to Troy, N.Y. to face Johnson and Wales University. After two years of first-round exists, the boys are ready for vengeance.

"I think the key for the game this weekend is to take advantage of opportunities when we are wide open in front of the net," **Jake Labranche '21** said. "To do that, we just need to shoot the ball, and hope it goes in the goal."



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

VOLLEYBALL FIGHTS IN NESCAC PLAY, FINISHES IN SEMIFINALS



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Editor

The Panthers gave it their all this weekend during post-season play. On Friday, Nov. 8, the women overcame Amherst in a thrilling five-setter before ultimately falling the next day to Tufts to end their run.

After losing in straight sets last time around to Amherst, the Middlebury women knew they had to come in and make a statement- and that is what they did. The Panthers started the match off on their terms, denying a chance to be shoved around by Amherst with a 25-17 first set. The Mammoths found a way to rebound in the second and knotted the game at one set a piece. The following two sets mirrored

the first two, and the teams would fight for a chance to keep their season alive in a fifth-set tiebreaker. The score was neck and neck until **Laney Sullivan '23** capitalized on a Mammoth error and brought her team to the NESCAC semifinals with a 16-14 finish.

The Panthers were ready to give the top team in the conference a run for its money after coming off of a big win the day before. Tufts' early runs defined the rest of the match, with a little help from a home court advantage. The Panthers had a hard time narrowing the large margins and finding their stride. After a tough two sets, Middlebury found its groove a little too late in the third set. Midd was able to get on top briefly with a 10-9 lead, but ultimately fell 25-20 in the final period.

Although the women have a bottom-heavy line up, it will be tough to see some seniors go. **Gigi Alper '20** may be hanging her jersey up for good, but in her four years she made a name for herself in Middlebury volleyball history. The senior captain rounded out her last hurrah by ending up with the third most digs in program history.

Chellsa Ferdinand '20, an opinion editor for the Campus, will leave her final season tallying 146 kills, 1867 Assists, and 608 digs and **Beth Neal '20** will bow out with 110 digs to her name.

The Panthers close out the 2019 season with a 15-10 record, going 6-4 in the NESCAC. They will look to the off-season to train for next year's revenge with a young and hungry team.

WOMEN'S SOCCER FALLS IN NESCAC TITLE MATCH, EARNS NCAA BID

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the reigning NESCAC champion Panthers were looking to preserve their title. While the women moved past archival Williams to reach the finals, they fell just short of their goal when fourth-ranked Amherst found its way to the back of the net for a 1-0 victory.

The heated rivalry between the Panthers and the Ephs is not new, but tensions were high this season after last year's battles. Middlebury had previously tied Williams in regular season play and, with a chip on their shoulder, went back to the drawing board in preparation for another fight on Saturday, Nov. 9.

There were opportunities on both sides early on. Finally, **Olivia Miller**

'20 set **Gretchen McGrath '21** up with a perfectly placed ball that she was able to slap past the Eph goalie. Throughout the rest of the first half Williams threatened the Middlebury defense, but nothing was able to sneak past **Eva Shaw '20.5**.

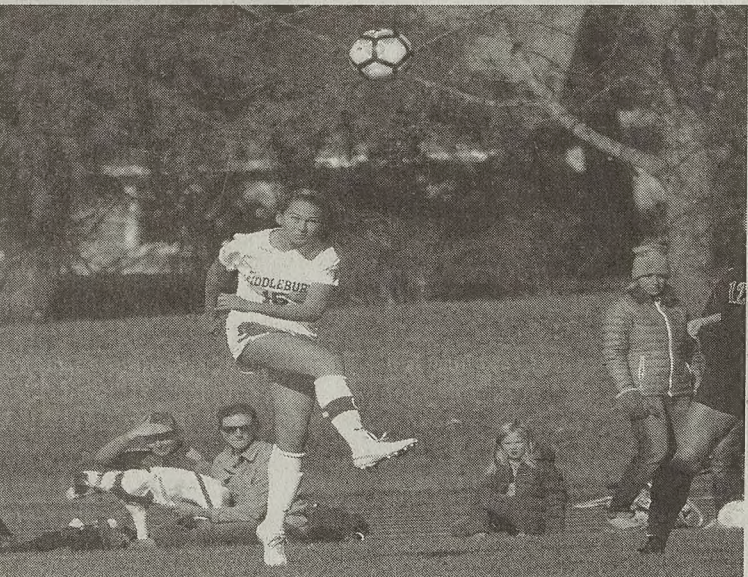
The Panthers remained offensive in the second period. **Izzy Hartnett '21** doubled her team's tally with a remarkable header off a corner kick from **Eliza Robinson '21**. The 2-0 score would hold until the last whistle, and the women would get another chance to pick up a conference title.

The Panthers knew they would have to bring their best on Sunday, Nov. 10 as Amherst had been the only team to topple Middlebury in the regular season. The women did an impressive job denying Mammoth

threats early on. But the Amherst offense did not let up and continued to apply intense pressure waiting for their chance to pounce. While the score was tied until the 53rd minute, there was a large disparity between the shots on goal per contender. Amherst rounded out the match with six shots on goal compared to Middlebury's one from **Ellie Greenberg '20**.

The Amherst goal during the 53rd would be the only one scored throughout the contest and give the team its fifth conference title in program history.

Due to the Panthers' strong all-around play, Middlebury still received an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, and will host the University of New England on Saturday, Nov. 16.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

As popularity increases, YouPower strives for inclusion through spin

By BENJAMIN GLASS
Local Editor

Hidden among the grey folds of the Freeman International Center — a bunker-like building known for its brutalist exterior — the YouPower spinning studio might just be a quintessential “diamond in the rough.” The blacked-out 1500 square foot studio has everything you’d expect in a fully-functioning “soul-cycle”-esque pain-cave: riders in bright lycra uniforms, massive speakers, racks of spin shoes, colored dumbbells, folded towels, floor candles, and, in the middle of it all, 22 well-oiled spin bikes.

“Once you get to the studio, the instructors do everything,” said YouPower co-president Anna Hubbell ’19.5, who teaches classes on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. YouPower offers over 19 cumulative hours of instructor-led spin sessions every week, an activity that promises enough EDM and sweat to last you the entire semester.

However, the YouPower of today is unlike what is used to be. The idea to turn the Freeman International Center space into a spin studio was conjured after the organization’s original concept came to fruition — a project to increase energy awareness on campus. In 2012, a group of Middlebury students received money to create a spin-bike system that stored energy in a generator. At the time, YouPower leadership led events like Watt-a-thons, where participants tried to produce as much power as possible in a session. After a few years, however, this initial experiment died out, as the power-generation component of the studio became less of a focus. YouPower’s advisor, Franklin Dean-Farrar, cited that the spin bikes were able to generate an underwhelming amount of energy, which led to disinterest. The studio

then became, in essence, a satellite workout room where students could spin when they wanted to without trekking to the athletic center.

“The YouPower room really provided, and still provides, a workout space across campus,” said Dean-Farrar, who has been involved with the organization since its founding. Both Dean-Farrar and Hubbell stressed the importance of the studio being across campus from the athletic center.

“The founders thought it would be a good idea to keep it on the other side of campus as an alternate space for people who didn’t feel comfortable going to the gym or for people who live far away from the athletic center,” Hubbell said.

YouPower was still undergoing drastic changes when Hubbell and co-president Andi Evans ’19.5 became involved with the organization. It was moving towards a more organized form of spinning, one that involved instructor-led classes, loud music, and a brand that focused on personal development and well-being. This is the YouPower of today.

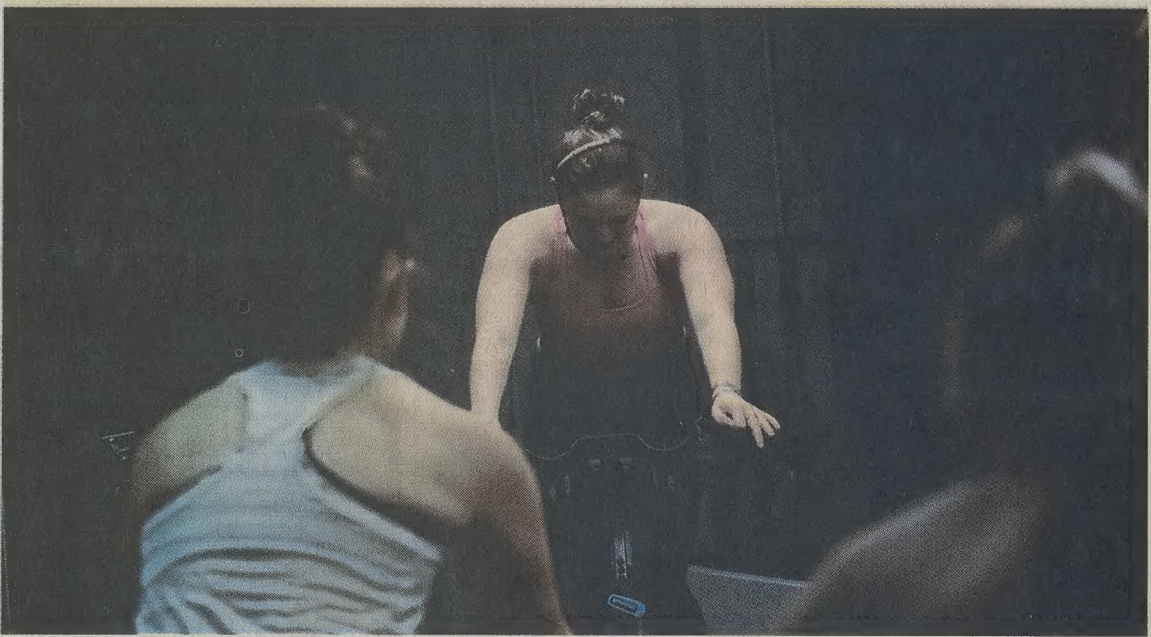
INCREASING POPULARITY

In the last few years, YouPower ridership has increased significantly.

“YouPower has become more of a household name across campus,” Hubbell said, citing the increased number of riders and instructors involved since she came to Middlebury College. “It’s been really exciting seeing a ton more students walk in through the day, and seeing full and waitlisted classes. YouPower is definitely on peoples’ minds as a way to work out during the day.”

Isla Bowery ’20.5 said that she started spinning her sophomore year, and since has regularly attended YouPower sessions multiple times a week.

“There was a learning curve [at



SOPH CHARRON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Abby Okin ’20 leads a spin class last Tuesday, one of two weekly sessions she teaches as a YouPower instructor. This is Okin’s third semester teaching YouPower classes.

first],” she said, “but you just have to jump into the deep end.” Bowery said that even though she felt a little intimidated at first, she enjoys the fact that in the studio you can still concentrate on your own performance. “Everyone is so focused on their [own riding]; you’re not in a spotlight like you are in the weight rack in the gym,” she said.

One reason for YouPower’s increased success as a spin studio has been the recent efforts by leadership to decrease financial barriers to entry. Recently, YouPower’s \$17,000 annual budget has been used to buy new spin bikes and buy equipment for participants to use. In the summer of 2018, the studio received a donation of around 40 pairs of spinning shoes.

“As presidents, Andi and I have tried to make YouPower accessible for everyone on this campus,”

Hubbell said. To further increase accessibility, YouPower has tried to get their name out into the campus community as a fully-equipped spin-studio free of charge. The group started going to club fairs in the fall of 2018, which Hubbell said has been a successful advertising strategy.

“When I started it wasn’t uncommon for less popular time-slots to only have three riders in the class,” she said, citing early morning and later afternoon classes as the most popular. “Now we are seeing those [unpopular] timeslots frequently fill up.”

Another reason for the popularity can be attributed to the collective and peer-to-peer nature of the activity, something the Dean-Farrar has witnessed as Assistant Director of Athletics for Operations and Events.

“What people are looking for is a lead-bike in the front of the room, loud music and an actual spin instructor leading the class,” Dean-Farrar said. He said there is something about group-led exercises, like YouPower, Middlebury Crossfit and yoga classes, that are popular at the college. “[Andi and Anna] have done a tremendous job with the organization,” Dean-Farrar said.

SPINNING CULTURE

YouPower has been acknowledged by some students for being intimidating, due to the fairly homogenous demographic that attends spin classes. Bowery said that she has seen more men attend classes recently, in an activity that is dominated by women. In October, the Local Noodle ran a satirical article that jokingly described YouPower as an organization that idolizes “super-hot blondes.” The Local Noodle declined

to comment when asked about the motivation behind the article.

Hubbell stressed that inclusivity is one of YouPower’s top priorities.

“I want YouPower to continue to be a comfortable and welcomed space on campus, and this is something that can be constantly developed and thought about,” she said.

This year, nine instructors, or about 40% of YouPower’s leadership, will graduate, leaving a large opening for new initiative. Hubbell and Evans hope that new instructors will get involved and continue the club’s trajectory of the past several years.

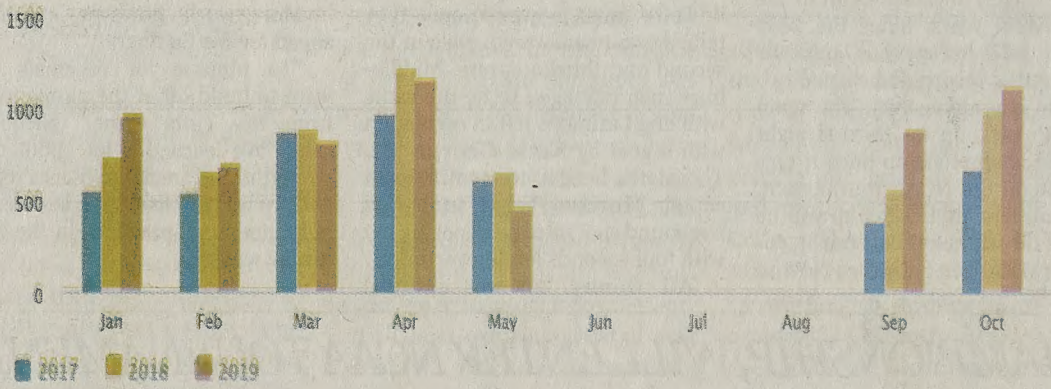
“I want [YouPower] to continue to foster an environment where people feel welcome and supported and comfortable trying something new,” Hubbell said.

If there is anyone that would convince you to go to a YouPower spin session, ask Hubbell. As soon as she arrived to campus in the February of 2016, Hubbell began attending spin sessions in hopes of picking up a new athletic endeavor in lieu of tennis and field hockey, two sports she played in high school.

“After I went to a bunch of YouPower classes, I quickly realized I wanted to be an instructor,” she said. “I feel like I have a group of people to rally behind in place of being on a sports team.” As for getting new students to attend classes, she is really enthusiastic about spin. “Spin is the best workout you can ask for on a college campus,” she said. “All you have to do is get yourself there.” Likewise, Bowery praised spinning as a form of escapism. “Middlebury can be such a pressure cooker,” she said. “YouPower is very efficient and a very effective form of exercise.”

To sign up for spin classes, visit mindbody.io.

Attendance By Month



COURTESY GRAPH

YouPower attendance by month for the last 3 years. The organization has seen an increase in the amount of full and waitlisted classes, and also visibly more people walking into the studio.

Roll Pants: Exploring school spirit at Middlebury

By BLAISE SIEFER
Sports Writer
and CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Sports Writer

It’s fourth and goal and the crowd rises to its feet. The student section screams so loud the opposing players can’t even hear the play call. The center snaps the ball, and the quarterback rolls out to his right. He throws! The pass is dropped! The football team wins the title! Hundreds of fans rush the field, jumping up and down with excitement for a win they’ll never forget.

Does it sound like Middlebury? Not quite.

At Middlebury, we are pretty fortunate to have some of the top D-3 sports teams in the business. Last year, Middlebury won six NESCAC championships in total, the most out of any school in the conference. Additionally, field hockey and women’s lacrosse both won national championships and women’s soccer finished as national finalists.

Our athletic conquests continued this year; football recorded a 9-0 season and was the first team to ever do so in NESCAC history. Three other teams competed in the NESCAC championship game this past weekend (men’s soccer, women’s soccer, and field hockey).

But these victories were curious: Does the school spirit at Middlebury match its distinguished athletic profile? To probe the question, we first explored what school spirit means to Middlebury students.

“School spirit means being proud of going to Middlebury,” Jess Cohen ’21 said. Meanwhile, Kelsey Brown ’23 said school spirit entails “a bunch of people getting together, supporting the sports teams, wearing their school colors, and making chants.”

Of course, school spirit isn’t confined to just spectating sporting events; it would be irrational to say that students who don’t attend sports games don’t have school spirit. However, attending sporting events is definitely a facet of school spirit that some students feel has room for improvement. Georgia Ezell ’23 feels a similar way. “I’d like to be at a school with a little more team camaraderie and sense of self,” Georgia Ezell ’23 said. “But maybe that’s my own fault.”

Take Middlebury field hockey, for example. This past Sunday, the team won their third straight NESCAC title, good for their sixth in the past eight years. They will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA D-3 tournament, entering the competition as defending champions. For a squad of such a high caliber, it’s worri-

some to think that the average attendance was less than 100 fans per game this season. Keep in mind, attendance includes parents of both teams and local fans that don’t go to Middlebury.

According to S.K. Hurlock ’23, “mostly close friends and parents/family of girls on the team” make up the fan base. Middlebury hosted the NESCAC championships for field hockey this weekend, but still saw relatively meager attendance. At the team’s semi-final matchup against Hamilton on Saturday, only 108 fans attended.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Oct. 12 football match against Colby saw the second-highest attendance in the past six years at 3,333.

It’s important to note that we are not saying that there are no fans at Middlebury; in fact, there have been times where student support has been incredible. For instance, attendance to the Oct. 12 football matchup vs. Colby (3,333) was the second-highest the football team had in the past six years. Rather, we are arguing that we could use improvement. So how might we accomplish this?

The first idea most people bring up is tailgating. Why don’t we have it at Middlebury? It is allowed, but in 2014, Director of Athletics Erin Quinn officially banned alcoholic beverages at tailgates. According to the NESCAC’s

sportsmanship statement, “It is incumbent upon NESCAC host institutions to provide a hospitable environment for contests to be played with an emphasis on fair play and an absolute ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages by spectators.”

Quinn noted this policy — in conjunction with previous incidents at football games caused by excessive alcohol consumption — in his decision to ban alcohol at tailgates in 2014. So yes, tailgating is still allowed, contrary to popular belief.

There also have been efforts within the Stu-

through social media posts, along with an announcement in the newspaper and fliers all around campus.

Besides school spirit, when we think of college sports, traditions cross our mind. Knowing that we’ve only been at Midd for a couple of months, we asked some upperclassmen about the presence of traditions in athletics.

“There are none, literally none,” Emily Kothutnicki ’20 said, when asked about sports traditions at Middlebury.

Obviously, this was concerning knowing that she’s been here for nearly four years. You would expect that at some point in Middlebury’s 229 year history, some kind of annual sporting ritual would arise, but that’s not the case. So, what can be done? As we near the winter season, why not start up some new traditions? Maybe a blue-out at the first basketball game? A pajama psych on one of our hockey games? The possibilities are endless.

Again, we know there is definitely school spirit at Middlebury — that’s not our point. Rather, we believe that as a student body, we can do even better. Our athletes work incredibly hard to perform at a high level, and the least we can do is give our maximum effort as it comes to support. So get off your butt, take a study break, quit watching Netflix, and cheer our athletes on. Trust us, the library is not going anywhere and you can certainly get back to the books after your short break to show some Midd spirit!

Hopefully, we’ll see you at the next game.



SARAH FAGAN